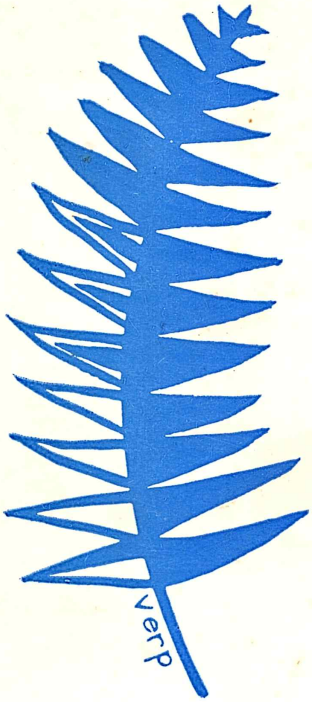

New Zealand Scottish Country Dancer 1965

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New Zealand Scottish Country Dancer

EDITOR: HARRY BRUCE, 420 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN

VOL. 12 1965

HEAR YE, HERE YE!

HULLO, everyone! With a grand year of S.C.D. behind us and bright hopes for the season that is now in full swing, we present the annual introduction to your magazine confident that you will enjoy reading it—the magazine, not the introduction—as much as your editor has enjoyed gathering in the material and supplying the dots and dashes.

We are pleased to inform you that circulation again expanded last year and expectations are that this trend will continue. Why then a slight increase in price? Those who were not at the Wanganui A.G.M. may not have the answer to that, and a short explanation is tendered them.

The "Dancer" was never intended as a money-making venture: it is a service—a first-class service—to Scottish country dancers. However, costs of production, including mailing, have progressively risen and the quality of the magazine has been improved (better paper, introduction of photographs, etc.), so it was felt that you, the "customer," should help share the load, thus reducing, even ending, the small subsidy the Society makes. By the time decimal currency arrives and bobs and bawbees go out of favour and dollars and cents are printed and minted, the price could be cut because profits are too high—*if the circulation graph continues upwards.*

But, come, our column must not develop into a dry report, or you will be skipping over the page before reaching the sample of our outstanding calligraphy at the end. That will never do.

Particularly gratifying has been the response by club secretaries to a circular sent them requesting they forward notes for publication—a New Zealand record has been set in this feature. We include secretaries in our acknowledgment of thanks to all contributors. Mrs Florence Lesslie was cornered at Summer School and willingly answered questions; Dr Thurston in far-off Canada, who has written articles for us in the past, immediately set to again; and Mr William Brown, of Dunedin, and Mr P. F. Stranack Fife, of Tasmania, both busy men, acceded promptly to requests for "something." Then, of course, there were all the other folks, members of the Society, some (like ourselves) writing under pen names, who helped fill the pages that lie ahead for your education, edification and entertainment.

Sorry, money cannot be refunded to those who find this volume dull and uninteresting. After all, 'tis a far, far greater "Dancer" than it has ever been before, and some may feel, we hope, that it is also the best.

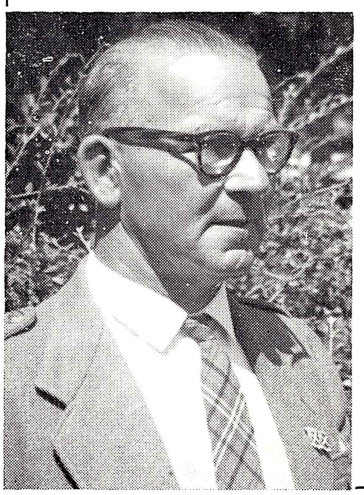
In the process of cutting and squeezing, many contributions had to be omitted, despite the fact that these had been set up in type. We apologise to the "omittees" and trust that they will understand and also that they will come again. A perusal of the jam-packed pages will give evidence that the plan was (yes, there was a plan!) to give much in little. With more artistic lay-out, making use of white space, the magazine could have expanded considerably without additional articles. Just one of the many editorial problems, what?

You may have noted above the editor's new address: that's where you should now send your complaints or your suggestions in the future. Owing to Dunblane Castle falling into dilapidation, we have been forced to remove to our town house—a wee but an' ben, where you may ascend and perceive us sometime if you are in the Edinburgh of the South.

Happy dancing to Scottish country dancers . . . everywhere.

Harry the Bruce

OUR PRESIDENT



AN important milestone in the history of our Society was passed at Wanganui Summer School when candidates were examined for the Preliminary Certificate of the R.S.C.D.S. The percentage of passes was most encouraging. Just ahead lies another milestone: next School marks the tenth birthday of the N.Z.S.C.D.S.

Looking back over the years, we have every reason to be proud of our achievements, competing as we have done against many other social and sporting attractions. Much credit for our progress must go to Club tutors, that loyal band of enthusiasts who have carried on, often with fluctuating membership.

If each of you could introduce one new member to your Club this year, we could round off our first decade with a record number of Scottish country dancers. How about it?

As your President, it will give me great pleasure to present your compliments to members of kindred organisations that I shall meet in Canada, America, Australia, and, of course, Bonnie Scotland, where my wife and I shall be when you read this message.

God bless.

JACK SETON.

BITS AND PIECES

FROM Scotland a Scottish country dancer writes, "New Zealand must be a happy place in which to dance." We agree, sir, and it is also a happy place to live in and have one's being. However, not to gild the lily too brightly, we do have our disputes and schisms, just as in family, social, business and political life the world o'er, but we survive these and keep stepping gaily.

TV or not TV?—that is the question. A falling off in attendance at clubs in some areas is placed at the door of television. "Not to worry" would be an oversimplification, but it must be remembered that New Zealand is only a young country televisionally speaking. It takes time for people to find and hold the balance in this medium, which at one can be an entertaining boon and a social menace. The period of adjustment varies with the individual, but all intelligent people ultimately discover that there is a time for TV and a time for activities such as S.C.D.

APPLICATIONS for Summer School seem to increase annually, causing headaches for the convener. Accommodation is the main problem and venues in both islands are becoming hard to find. Is the day far off when the school will have to be centralised as is done in Scotland at St Andrews? Most will prefer the alternating arrangement between North and South Islands, but there is a lot to be said for finding a suitable permanent site, with possibly a Society committee to take the load from an overworked convener and his local helpers.

SOME are born to greatness, others have it thrust upon them, whilst others . . . We are fortunate in the number of those who give time and labour in organising the dance and leading us to better things. Their efforts are appreciated. But what of those willing workers who, so often without words of thanks, are always ready when there's a job to be done—decorate the hall, prepare meals, wash dishes, lay on transport or accommodation, etc.? The "Dancer" raises its bonnet to them.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

A BROAD SURVEY, BY HUGH THURSTON, VANCOUVER

SCOTLAND has been in the mainstream of western civilisation for a very long time and has shared in the general culture of this civilisation. In particular, any form of dance which is really widespread over Europe has naturally occurred in Scotland too (alongside native Scottish dances like reels). Sometimes special Scottish forms have sprung up, from the Scottish branle to the Scottish samba. Often the "Scottishness" of these dances lies only in the name, or perhaps the name together with a choice of Scottish tunes—there is nothing particularly Scottish to the naked eye about the "Caledonians" (a Scottish form of quadrille) or the "Gay Gordons."

Scots tend to be conservative, and sometimes dances remain popular in Scotland when they have died away in other countries—today, for example, quadrilles are danced more by Scots than by the English, and I have even met people who (because of this) quite thought the quadrilles to be a Scottish dance. One type of dance, though, which became Scottish in more than just name is the country dance.

The country dances came into prominence sometime before 1600, in England, and a collection of them—dance directions and music—was published under the name "The English Dancing-master," by John Playford, in 1651. By this time the dance was no longer rustic (though it always kept the name "country dance") and indeed Pepys mentions country dances at the court of Charles II.

Between 1650 and about 1730 two things happened. Firstly, all but one of the miscellaneous formations (squares, rounds, etc.) died away, leaving only the longwise progressive type of dance with which we are familiar. Secondly, the dance spread rapidly, all over Europe and the American colonies. There are records of it at the Swedish Court; a selection of a couple of dozen were translated into French under the name "contre-danse"; and it became one of the main forms of dance in Scotland and Ireland, at least in the large towns.

The first record we have of it in Scotland is in 1720 (a manuscript description of a dance called "John Anderson My Jo" in the National Library of Scotland bears this date) and the first collection to be published in Scotland (by John Bowie, of Perth) is dated 1789—the first American publication was just one year earlier. We are lucky, however, in having several good Scottish manuscript collections of about 1740—the manuscript from the Holmain charter chest, the Castle Menzies manuscript of very similar dances, and two manuscripts by James Young, of Edinburgh, one at present in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and one belonging to the Earl of Ancaster.

Country dancing went on with few changes for about 100 years—from say, 1720 to 1820. Then a number of changes did occur. A few new formations sprang up: those in which we dance "Circassian Circle," "Dashing White Sergeant" and "La Tempete." At the same time country dancing began to die out in England, giving way to the quadrilles, the waltz and the polka. The trunk of the tree had perished, but two sturdy branches remained: Scottish country dances and New England contra-dances remained alongside the quadrilles (which in New England rapidly evolved into the American square dance).

One natural consequence was that the country dance began to take on national characteristics—Americans began to "call" theirs (like square dances), and the Scottish style was influenced by the native reel steps. Moreover, Scottish dances contained one figure quite unknown in England (or America or Ireland): the "set to and turn corners and reel with them" which finishes off the "Duke of Perth," "Mrs MacLeod," and many other of our dances. There is one curious parallel between American and Scottish developments. Both developed a large number of dances of two-couple type, 32 bars long, of which the first half consisted of a rather characteristic figure (the diamond of "Petronella," for instance, or the balance-in-line of "Scottish Reform") and the second half was always the same. In Scotland this second half was down-the-middle-and-up-and-poussette; in America it was down-the-middle-and-up-and-right-and-left.

Perhaps the greatest difference between this period and the previous (1720-1820) one was that now a dance could become popular and remain in fashion for a long time (the "Duke of Perth" is described in the Blantyre MS., 1805, and remained a favourite dance without a break until today). In fact, a whole repertoire of dances would appear over and over again in various nineteenth-century dance manuals: dances like "Petronella," "Triumph," "La Tempete," "Circassian Circle," "Waltz Country Dance," "Rory O'More," "Paddy O'Rafferty," "Polka Country Dance," the "Haymakers," "The Nut," "The Cameronian Rant," the "Glasgow Highlanders," and a score or so of others.

By contrast, in the eighteenth century a dance would appear in one book and never appear again. Of the thousands of dances published in that century

there are only a handful of exceptions, best known among which is "Monymusk." This dance appeared in three or four books of the late eighteenth century and became traditional in America. Our version is reconstructed from "24 country dances for the year 1786 with proper directions to each dance, as they are performed at court, Bath, and all public assemblies," not too accurately. In fact in some ways our dance, which is a direct reconstruction from the written directions, is less like the original than the American version, passed on from generation to generation for over 150 years.

This I find a sobering thought from two points of view—the accuracy of tradition (though in point of fact the "Duke of Perth" beats "Monymusk" on this score) and the thought that our reconstructions really ought to be more accurate. (Comparison of reconstructions in the S.C.D. books with the original documents shows that about one-third of the dances have been reconstructed reasonably accurately, about one-third have minor errors, and about one-third are seriously wrong.)

Another important class of dance comprises those that do not come from written sources—they have been collected directly from dancers, and may never have been written down. (There is an overlap between this category and the dances found in ninenteenth-century dance manuals: it is quite possible to collect a dance from some old dancer, and then search the books and find a written description of it. There is, however, practically no overlap with the dances found in eighteenth-century collections.) This category contains a lot of interesting and characteristic dances: "Haughs of Cromdale," "The Braes of Busby," "The Shepherd's Crook," "Scottish Reform," "The Mason's Apron," "The Rifleman," "Barley Bree," "The Lovers' Knot," "The Jimp Waist," "The Duchess of Buccleuch's Fancy," "The Lasses of Melrose," "Teviot Brig," "Rothesay Country Dance," "Dalkeith's Strathspey," "Peggy's Love," "Jessie's Hornpipe."

[All the foregoing have been included in either the S.C.D. books or the Border Book.]

One rather important fact is that all our really genuine strathspeys are in this category. In particular, the "dance-manual" list contains no strathspeys at all (for the reasons why "Glasgow Highlanders" does not count, see N.Z.S.C.D.S. magazine of 1959). True enough, some of the older dances are described in the books as strathspeys, but no one can be certain how these old dances were performed, and certainly some have been altered from non-strathspeys to strathspeys when they were put into our books—for example "Jimmy's Fancy" whose tune, "Jemmy's Fancy," was replaced by "Lord Seaforth," or "Jenny's Bawbee," whose tune has not been replaced, but which cannot be a strathspey because Thomas Wilson, who composed the dance, (a) marked it "allegro" and (b) marked strathspeys "andante."

Thus we see that the country dances which we do are not a homogeneous class, but divide fairly naturally into several groups. Going backwards in time these are:

1. New dances by known composers, starting with the "Reel of the 51st Division." Besides figures devised by their composers, these dances can include figures from any of the previous types.
2. Dances popular from, say, 1820 to 1914. Most of these would have originated in this period: a few (notably the "Duke of Perth") started their lives earlier. We divided this group into two sub-groups—those to be found in dance manuals, and those never written down. Another possible division would be into those popular locally in small villages, and those which were more widespread. This would come to much the same thing—the local ones were the ones which were not written—except for "Scottish Reform." This dance was more than locally known, but somehow it never seemed to be described in print.
3. Dances from before 1820. This group can be divided into dances from manuscripts and dances from printed books. (There may, of course, be dances from this period which were never written down, but there is nothing we can do about them.) Of these, the manuscript dances are by far the most valuable and interesting. Indeed, one has to be rather careful about dances from early printed books. The compilers of these books got their material from all over the British Isles but mostly from England, and we have in our books a number of dances from early printed sources which should not really be there. One is "The Thatched House" (its name was changed to "The Theekit Hoose" when it was re-edited for our use): the Thatched House was a well-known assembly room in London and the dance was composed to mark its opening. Another is "Lamb Skinnet": this is not a Scottish dialect form of "skinned lamb," as some people think—it is the name of a card game, and is a corruption of the French word "Lansquenet." The dance has no connection with Scotland. We have already noted that these old dances are often poorly reconstructed: we may therefore be thankful that Scotland has a good sound tradition of dances of group 2 and Scottish dancers are building a solid core of attractive dances in group 1—including some good ones from New Zealand.

WONDERFUL WANGANUI

THE 1964/65 Summer School at Wanganui is now only a memory, but to those who were fortunate to be present the memories, like the friendships made and renewed, will last a long time. For those less fortunate, let me try to give you some idea of how we made the most of every available hour.

The first arrival at the Wanganui Boys' College Hostel was Ed Wilkie, our cook without compare. He was soon joined by Bill Jacob and a few other behind-the-scene workers who together spent several days in quiet preparation. Indeed, now that I look back, the atmosphere was so quiet that it just didn't seem to be the same place that later became our Summer School. It must have affected Ed, too; if he had been as quiet as this at any of the School's formal dances we would have rushed him off to Dr Jack!

But soon the tempo began to quicken. On Sunday, December 27, in ones and twos the first arrivals began to drift in. Soon cars were bringing dancers in a steady stream and others poured in from bus, plane, and train—thus resulting in a continuous queue at the office.

Those who had successfully braved the maze of corridors and stairways to find their own beds, and perhaps, just as difficult, managed to find their way back again, were kept busy piloting newcomers to their quarters and helping with luggage.

By Monday afternoon most folk had settled in and were able to gather on the green behind the High School buildings across the road from the hostel. Here we showed our visitors that, despite musical 'itches our feet were itching to dance. Mr Ron Prince, the chairman of the Board of Managers, formally opened the School, and then the official photograph was taken as evidence that some of us could still stand after three dances.

That evening the opening formal dance started the School off in the spirit which lasted throughout the 12 days. It was good both to be dancing with our old friends as well as meeting newcomers from clubs of which we had scarcely heard. Jack Seton kept us all going as only Jack can, and I know there were several renewing mental notes of how to M.C. competently and how to make an evening a first-rate success.

Summer School was soon in full swing. Although there were some sore feet limping around for the first few days most dancers took their classes in their stride or to the swimming pool. For the first time since Ardmore, if my memory serves me well, a class was held for children. During the first session about 12 children put their teacher through her paces (or have I got this wrong?) and judging from reports and their item at the concert they had a thoroughly enjoyable time. In addition to this group there were seven other classes running concurrently, ranging from elementary, to advanced, including the social class and, of course, the Preliminary Certificate class. This latter class of aspiring certificate holders, had a more serious task than the other classes, and it is fair to say that their studies during the School limited the extent to which they were able to enter into other activities. In addition it was the first time such a course had been attempted in New Zealand, and they all had our sympathy as they worked toward their examination at the end of the School. (Actually dancers from this class could be easily recognised, as they were invariably seen wandering around in a daze mumbling, "Aspirins for the aspirants!") However, Mrs Lesslie was eventually able to put these folk at their ease, and at the end of the course everyone was all smiles. I think the loudest sigh of relief was from the class tutor!

Throughout the School there were several highlights which made Wanganui just that little bit different; for instance the Bar BQ at Castlecliff. It was called "Bar BQ" because of the noises which came out of the dark, first when the fire went out—"Bah, Bah . . . Bah B"; and then, calling those who braved the shower of rain—"Q.Q. Queue here for sandy, sooty sauses." Many thanks to Jack and Douglas for leading the community singing, beachcomber style—"Give me the key and I'll sing in anybody's flat."

As Miss 1965 steps through the hoop at Wanganui S.S. a new year is born. Hovering over new-arrival, Sharon, are Pop Clancey (S.S. Convener) and Mum (Society Secretary), whilst "Uncle Jack" prepares to give the babe a welcoming hug.

Streamer-strewn floor will remind Summer Schoolers that the New Year is in. Broadcasting of the traditional Hogmanay ceremony is over, the toasts drunk and now they are enjoying their first dance of 1965—a "Thirty-Twosome."

Then there was the four-party tour on Sunday afternoon. Some of us still haven't worked out who was going up the river, and who was coming down while just who was cruising round town . . . Eventually, 40 at a time, we all had a short cruise on THE river and arrived back at the hostel tired and eager to sample yet another variation of Ed-ibles. That evening we relaxed in the Common Room, enchanted by the delightful voice and colourful detail of Mrs Lesslie's account of the life and work of R.S.C.D.S. We could have gone on listening all night. Many thanks, Mrs Lesslie.

Doubtless Wanganui '64/65 was a good School, and a grand social success. One could go on for pages recounting incidents from the concert, Hogmanay (and after!), the aquatic sports (day and night!), the picnic at Kai Iwi Beach and so on. One small memory in particular stands out in my mind, typical of the happy atmosphere that pervaded the whole school, and that was the singing in the meal queues, mainly from Harry and his off-beat buskers. Although their repertoire was small, the variations on "Happy Days Are Here Again" and "The Happy Wanderer" were endless and a delight to listen to—*usually*.

In all, it was grand fun, and as the folk began to drift away on the final Saturday, time and again their parting words were, "See you at the next Summer School."

WIN CLANCEY.

S.S. SNIPPETS

OUR wandering reporter at Wanganui invited a cross-section of dancers to give thumbnail impressions of their sojourn at Summer School. Here is a selection from his jottings:

Lyla Langman (Lower Hutt): Having been at my eleventh Summer School and found each one different, I could not pick on one of these and say that it was the best. Wanganui lived up to the usual high standard.

Alec Perry (Brisbane): What impressed me most was the companionship—the get togetherness—and the happy social spirit. Of course, there was the dancing too, and I've learned many new dances.

Dan Sharpe (Auckland): My most favourable impression of Summer School was the way in which the different age groups got obvious enjoyment from the dancing. It shows we have something to offer everyone.

Margo Smith (Melbourne): I had never heard of such schools in Australia, and I think it is something we could well copy. To me it was really terrific.

Fay Gibson (Dunedin): This Summer School has certainly been terrific, and Wanganui weather has helped make it most enjoyable for all. I liked the classes and the social life. It has been really wonderful to spend a holiday in such a great place.

Dr Jack Thomson (Cambridge): I found them a healthy lot. They have to be to stay the course. I can speak for the Social Class, where Jack Seton drove us like slaves. We managed to make it, and at the end we were better friends than ever, if that were possible.

Romaine Butterfield (New Plymouth): This School was as enjoyable as any, and the meals, I think, surpassed those at previous ones I have attended. Never have so many been fed so well by so few. Another feature of the School was, of course, the Preliminary Certificate class. I feel sure of speaking for all in that class when I say how wonderful it was to sense that everyone was taking a genuine interest in our progress and activities, and I should like to thank all those who offered their obviously sincere good wishes when examination day arrived.

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Juliet Hayden (Gisborne): This has been a wonderful School, if one is allowed respite from the torment of Harry the Bee, whom we hope will have learned to act his age by next year. The School gets bigger and better every year.

Gillian Joyce (Suffolk): It was just by chance that I heard of the School, and the wonderful welcome I received has encouraged me to join the Society and also to dance at clubs during my working holiday in New Zealand.

Kaye Grieve (Dunedin): I have enjoyed this Summer School immensely, although life has been hectic. In class I have learned a lot, and by the end of each morning have been at dropping point. The social life too has been terrific! In all, I feel that this trip to Wanganui was well worth while.

Ernie Pearce (Christchurch): Summer School at Wanganui was a howling success from all angles —sociability was great, meals marvellous and organisation splendid. A lot was learned by all. Our thanks go out to the organisers, and we would encourage other members of the N.Z.S.C.D.S. to attend Napier next year.

WE'VE BEEN DOUBLECROSSED

FACED with designing some form of heraldic emblem representative of New Zealand and Scotland combined, an artist is offered almost unlimited scope—silver fern and thistle, e.g. our magazine cover; docile, pecking kiwi and fierce, rampant lion; Maori warrior and kilted Scot; Southern Cross, as on New Zealand flag, and St. Andrew's Cross, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

Possibly the simplest and most effective crest is that of the interlacing of the crosses as was done on our Society badge. We are not original in using this symbolism—older institutions than ours adopted the design—but we share it in honourable company.

After all, our country is not alone in superimposing the Southern Cross on the Blue Ensign to form a national flag. Australia has variations on the same theme, out-starring us in the cross and out-pointing us in the stars and with a Commonwealth star for good measure. Again we have a worthy companion.

However, it is of Scotia's national flag, the St. Andrew's Cross that your scribe wishes to deal. Do you know the origin of the flag? If not, you may find this vignette of Scottish history quite interesting.

Long, long ago, centuries before the white man first sighted the Land of the Long White Cloud, there ruled in Scotland a Pictish king, Angus II, who, finding he and his small band of Picts facing a mighty army of Northumbrians, prayed fervently on the eve of battle that victory would be his. Later, composing himself to sleep, he had a dream in which St. Andrew appeared to offer words of encouragement and to promise that there would be a sign when Angus should issue the command for the final charge.

Came the dawn and the combatants were locked in bloody battle. Soon it was apparent that the exchanges favoured the Sassenachs and it looked as though the outnumbered defenders were to be overwhelmed by the invading horde. But, wait for it . . . Angus, as though imploring aid, raised his eyes to the heavens and there in the clear blue sky appeared a formation of white clouds depicting the diagonal cross of St. Andrew. This heartened Angus and his men, who attacked with renewed ferocity, putting the enemy to flight.

From then onwards the king adopted the white cross on the blue background as the flag of his people, and that is how the saltire (St. Andrew's Cross) became the national flag of Scotland. This is the flag that is raised aloft at the annual Summer Schools of the New Zealand Scottish Country Dance Society.

In conclusion, you will now realise, if you did not know before, that the crosses which comprise our Society crest both originated in the sky. It matters not if you were born under the "exiles' cross" or claim St. Andrew as your patron saint, as long as you participate in Scottish country dancing in New Zealand you have a foot in two countries and can honourably wear the badge of our Society, providing you are an annual associate member.

Have you joined yet? If not, why not?

(By coincidence, a Carterton correspondent forwarded an excerpt from Ratcliffe Barnett's "Border Byways," giving his version of the legend of St. Andrew's Cross—"the oldest flag in the British Empire"—which substantially agrees with the foregoing account. Added information is that the battle was fought at Athelstaneford, named after Athelstane (895-940), the Saxon king who led this army against Hungus, King of the Picts, and his ally, Achacus, King of the Scots.)

YE KEN WHAE.

"CALLING ALL SCOTS!"

By WILLIAM BROWN, Dunedin

MEN and women have been going furth of Scotland for hundreds of years, sailing the seven seas, exploring, pioneering and making new homes in distant parts of the earth. The Wandering Scot, indeed! And when the Scot leaves his native land he invariably takes with him his customs, his culture and his nationalism. Not only does this include whisky, haggis, bagpipes and tartan, but also the accumulated culture of one of the oldest countries in Europe—literature, poetry, a treasury of ballads and folksongs, and, as Scotland has always been a dancing country, many charming, virile and colourful dances. Scots never forget the rock from which they were hewn, and the love of Scotland and things Scottish persists unto the third and fourth generations and even longer. Many who have never seen the land of their forefathers long to view the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, Auld Reekie at Festival time or the Highland bens and glens.

Eleven years ago an approach was made to me by the manager of 4YA Dunedin, who suggested I might be interested in compering a half-hour Scottish session each week. After serious consideration and, quite frankly, some misgiving, I decided to tackle the job, shortly to discover there was a great demand for the songs, dances and music of Caledonia. Right from the start letters began to arrive from all over New Zealand. Indeed the volume of these was quite amazing and the number of requests started to pile up. Some were rather unusual, such as "Could you please play me a record of J. M. Hamilton singing 'Jessie, the Flower o' Dunblane'?" Hamilton had been out of circulation for over 50 years! Another request was for Scott Skinner playing "The Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord." I managed to satisfy by borrowing an old record from an Aberdonian friend, and may say here that the N.Z.B.C. are not keen on playing old recordings except for special programmes.

A request for Jimmie Shand playing "The Flooers o' Edinburgh" came from one of the most northerly points of the Dominion, and by the same mail from Stewart Island came another plea for . . . yes, the same record! One North Island listener wanted to know the meaning of "Fir-Bols." He had backed a horse of that name which had paid a good price, and friends had assured him it was a Scottish title.

Some years ago a request was received set out like an official questionnaire.—Could you please tell me: A. How many brands of Scotch whisky are on the market? B. When was tartan invented? C. How many Scottish country dances are known and danced? I did some research on "A" and was amazed to find there were over 2,800 registered brands of Scotch. This information, by the way, so staggered (no pun intended) my correspondent, he wrote for assurance on the authenticity of my figures. These were correct. As regards "B," it is almost impossible to decide what are the earliest references to tartan, for by-gone writers were vague and ambiguous. It is generally accepted that tartan is over 2,000 years old and distinctively Celtic. I could not tell him how many Scottish country dances were known and danced. How about readers of the "Dancer" having a shot at that one?

Yes, the questions were varied and interesting. One night I mentioned the Tay Bridge disaster. The structure was blown down in a gale when a train was crossing, with a resulting great loss of life. That occurred in 1879, and you can imagine my astonishment when a letter arrived from an old gentleman, who informed me that as a boy of five he had walked across the bridge with his father a month *before* it was opened. He had been over 80 years in New Zealand.

Meeting people and making new friends have been rewarding experiences. My ploy has called for interviewing well-known artists and distinguished visitors—Kenneth McKellar, the late Robert Wilson, Andy Stewart, Alex Finlay, Ian Powrie, Jimmie Shand, Niven Miller, Brigadier Alistair McLean (producer of the Edinburgh Festival Tattoo) and others, many of whom still write to me.

When Washington Irving, the American author, visited Scotland many years ago, he travelled round the countryside talking to ploughmen and shepherds, enjoying their company and conversation. One old man told him that the countryside seemed to be a lot bonnier since Rabbie Burns wrote his grand wee songs. Well, Rabbie certainly wrote a few, but there are hundreds of songs in Scottish albums extolling the beauties of Scotland. Bonnie Scotland is the image of their country that Scots have very shrewdly held up to the eyes of the world.

After 11 years of conducting a Scottish session on New Zealand broadcasting, I feel that in this little country, where we are just making history, there is much to inspire. Surely some young Kiwi can write worthwhile ballads in praise of New Zealand. The songs of Scotland have done much to glamorise and lend a secret enchantment: we could do well, in a changing world, to move with

the times, but there is room for spreading a little tradition and sentiment of our very own. What we need are the bards.

From my radio experiences, I know that there is tremendous enthusiasm for Scottish country dancing in the Dominion. When Summer Schools have been held in Dunedin, I have been present at some of your social evenings, savoured your hospitality and good fellowship, watched you enjoying—repeat enjoying—the lovely old dances and even joined in (just couldn't resist).

When I commenced broadcasting, my sessions were "live," but in recent years have been pre-recorded. Conducting a live session can be rather nerve-racking at times—everything must be 100 per cent. correct and timed to the last second. Indeed, timing a programme is one of the biggest headaches in broadcasting.

Every Thursday morning I record my programme for the following Thursday, and when leaving the studio think, "Well, that's that." But somewhere at the back of my mind a little nagging voice whispers, "Yes, but what about next week?" Yes, indeed, what about next week?

Then it is a question of thoughtfully sitting with a sheet of paper, trying to collect a few ideas to jot down. First, sort out the records then write the script round what are available. You'd be surprised how difficult it can be to find records to suit one's subject! Next comes balancing the programme—vocal items, ballads, songs in lighter vein, country dance music, humour, and all the time with one eye on the clock. A broadcaster is permitted to express an opinion, but one must be careful not to confuse opinion with knowledge, a common fault, but very dangerous on radio.

Well, I've rambled and blethered a bit but must plead extenuating circumstances, as counsel would say. My right honourable friend, Harry Bruce, suggested when inviting me to write an article for the "Dancer," that a few rambling reflections would do. Possibly that best describes this effort.

In conclusion, many thanks to the Scottish country dancers who have written to me. Your interest and good wishes are appreciated. Best wishes to all for the future.

May the best you've ever had
Be the worst you'll ever see;
May a wee moose ne'er leave your pantry
Wi' a teardrop in his e'e;
And may you ay be hale and hearty
Till you're auld enough to dee.

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SPECIAL EXPORT DEPARTMENT

J. MORRISON HIGHLAND OUTFITTERS

Department Z, 461 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, Scotland

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THE "Dancer" was privileged to have the opportunity of interviewing Mrs Florence Lesslie at Summer School. With 101 questions that could have been asked her, only six diverse points were put. These and the fulsome answers, which it is felt are of great interest to all who follow the dance, lie before you. Here goes:

Have you noted any outstanding differences in the New Zealand interpretation of S.C.D. as compared with that in Scotland?

No. You are most fortunate in having certificated teachers who are striving to maintain a standard of dancing which they know to be good. I have also found that, despite their knowledge and experience, they are still keen to learn. This means that Scottish country dancing will continue to flourish in New Zealand.

Most of the dancers I have met here could join a set anywhere, in any country, confident in the knowledge that they dance correctly. They might find slight variations in style and interpretation, but there would be no great difference. The R.S.C.D.S. has tried to standardise steps and figures for this very reason, and the average dancer should be able to enjoy a programme in any country he or she may visit.

Whilst it is realised that for demonstration purposes all dancers must adhere to the same instructions for particular dances, this uniformity is not always applied at club and formal level. Should steps be taken to correct these variations?

We should never take liberties with traditional dances, but there are slight modifications that are permissible and certain variations that do not alter the pattern of the dance in any way. The teacher must decide what is most suitable for the class concerned. For example, take the figure "set to corner, set to partner," etc. (as in "General Stuart's Reel"). Originally this figure was danced with the 1st couple always visible *within* the lines of the set, and the whole figure was easy and graceful. Personally, I have always taught it like this, and still think it is much more natural *and graceful* than the newer way of leaping into the sidelines and back again to the centre. Comparatively few dancers can do this with any elegance at all, and I can think of nothing in its favour. But this is a matter of opinion, and, to repeat, the teacher must make the decision, telling her class, I suggest, that there are two versions and giving reasons for the choice.

Another example is the giving of hands in crossing over to change places. There is no definite rule about this, but it is generally accepted that to give hands in crossing looks better and is helpful. This also applies to setting in line by two or more couples, Recently it has become fashionable to join hands whilst "moving up." This I do not like, but must emphasise that it is again a personal opinion.

Slight modifications are allowable with older or with very young classes, of course. For example, turning with one hand or with both, whichever may be the easier. Likewise, turning one and a-half times or just a half turn at the end of a dance —choose the easier way with the not-so-good dancers. It is better to be in the right place after a half turn than in the wrong attempting to turn once and a-half.

I find the slight variations—and there are many of them—very interesting. You will discover that the simplest version is usually the best. Remember always, if you visit another group or club, dance their version. Do not insist upon your own, for theirs is probably equally correct.

At formals, ladies are expected to wear white frocks with tartan sashes, whether or not white becomes them. How does this compare with practice at Home?

There is no official uniform for S.C.D. For most demonstrations and at Balls, when the men wear full Highland dress, the ladies usually appear in long, white evening dresses with tartan sashes. White is the perfect foil for the colourful kilt worn by the men, against which the ladies cannot compete! However, at Balls the ladies may wear coloured dresses should they choose to do so, but in that case tartan sashes are not usually worn. For informal dances at Home the men wear kilt and shirt with tie, and the ladies any pretty frock they may choose, but again no sash.

Strictly speaking sashes should be worn only with full evening dress, but it is quite understandable that, far from Home, you take great pride and pleasure in wearing your tartan. It is natural that you should do so. Is there a definite rule here that ladies must wear white, or has it just become an accepted fashion? Perhaps those who prefer to wear colour should be permitted to do so, except, of course, on special occasions when it may be desirable for all to be alike.

I cannot give a definite answer to all this: you must be left to make your own decisions. However, to repeat, it is generally agreed that a tartan sash is worn with a white evening dress, and that there is no official dress for ordinary dancing.

There is a never-ceasing flow of leaflet dances, some of which become very popular. What effect do you feel this will have on the future of S.C.D.?

The tremendous interest in the composition of new dances certainly shows that S.C.D. is very much alive. At the same time, it would be a disaster if the old traditional dances were lost in the flood. However, there is no doubt that the best of the modern dances will live, as the best of the traditional ones have done, and that the poorer ones will disappear. This is already happening, as we all know: a new dance is very popular for a while, then it vanishes.

On this subject, it must be remembered that the R.S.C.D.S. is a collecting Society, and therefore all dances, as these are discovered, must be preserved —good or bad. I would appeal to all compilers of dance programmes to hold the balance between old and new, thereby doing a real service to S.C.D. as a whole.

There are many dancers today who know all the complicated leaflet dances, but who may never have danced "Corn Rigs" and "Petronella." This is a sad state of affairs, for you cannot be a good country dancer unless you know the simple, old traditional dances too.

I am told that club dance programmes are often to blame, for visiting clubs have to spend so much time learning the complicated dances on the programme that there is no time to teach the simpler ones that everyone should know. Surely this is all wrong.

A Scottish country dance function should, before anything else, be a social affair. Therefore the programme should consist of dances which can be enjoyed without undue mental strain by the majority of dancers present. To put obscure or very difficult dances on a programme shows a singular lack of consideration for visitors, who come hoping to have an enjoyable evening. Keep the complicated dances for your own club nights.

Remember, an average dancer coming in unexpectedly should be able to enjoy most of the programme without feverish reference to little books of notes. There is something wrong with your programme if people have to sit out often because they don't know the dances. Choose a good mixture of old and new, easy and a little more difficult. Enjoy the new dances, but don't forget the old ones which are part of our national heritage.

Hooray!—for better or for worse it's over! This happy, smiling group comprises New Zealand's first-ever Teacher's Certificate class and includes, fourth lady from left (standing), Mrs Florence Lesslie, R.S.C.D.S. examiner, on whose left is teacher Miss Phyllis Gale. All candidates sat the Preliminary test.

We often hear rumours of changes in technique. Are these at times correct, and is our teaching lagging behind?

Periodically one finds changes in fashion creeping in. Sometimes these changes are good, but nearly always they are passing trends that can well be ignored. The fundamental steps and formations have not changed. Any exaggeration or affectation should be avoided. You will generally find that the simple form is the correct one.

Sometimes instructions are misinterpreted, or some detail is overemphasised, and a misunderstanding arises. This may account for the occasional rumour of a change in technique, but any such rumour can almost certainly be discounted. I repeat: the basic technique does not change.

Having attended Summer School at Wanganui, what is your opinion of the programme carried out?

The arrangement of classes is excellent and the system of grading gives every dancer the opportunity of learning according to ability. The popularity of the classes for prospective teachers, who in time may be encouraged to sit the certificate examinations, augurs well for the future of S.C.D.

in the Dominion. Teaching is the most important part of the examinations, and it is often difficult to get enough practice with clubs or other groups, so the chance to teach and to receive criticism in these classes must prove invaluable to prospective candidates—whether or not they already have experience in teaching.

This was, of course, the first year of the Preliminary Test, and I should like to say that the training given to the candidates was most thorough and well planned. The result of this first examination was very good indeed, and most encouraging for all concerned.

As to the social side of the programme—this was full of variety and interest and very well organised. Summer School is a very lively affair indeed, and I am not at all surprised that it is such a very popular occasion in the S.C.D. year. One could hardly call it a restful holiday, but it was a most enjoyable experience and I have many memories of it.

Several times I was asked how it compared with St. Andrews! You just can't compare them. Both are excellent, most enjoyable and quite, quite different from each other: both equally memorable and enthusiastically attended. Indeed I would find it very difficult to decide which of the two I would prefer to visit again, given the opportunity.

☆ ☆ ☆

CASE OF OBSESSIONAL DIMENTIA

A CASE of much interest to all Scottish country dancers was seen at the Wanganui Semi-Cripples Out-Patients Department recently. The patient was an attractive young woman who gave the name, Jenny Bawbee. Her address was Hamilton House, Monymusk. She was somewhat bashful when asked her age and in the end admitted she was over 21.

EXAMINATION

"What is troubling you?"

"Oh, Doctor, I keep reeling."

"Are your eyes all right?"

"No, they cross and cast."

"Do you take your food well?"

"No, it just goes down the middle and up again."

"What about your Allemande?"

"Regular every morning, just like clockwork."

Physical examination showed no corners but some very nice curves. When made to stand with her eyes closed, stated on opening them that she saw double triangles.

DISCUSSION

This is obviously a case of obsessional dimentia. It is seen occasionally in New Zealand. It is very common in Scotland, particularly at a place called St. Andrews. Patient admitted having been at St. Andrews recently.

TREATMENT

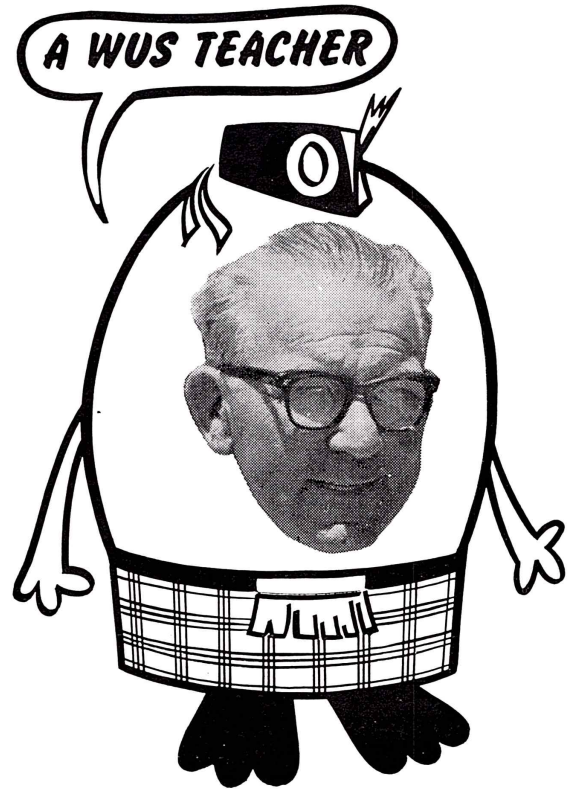
There is no standard treatment but I suggested that she should do a twist session each day. My young assistants were all very anxious to assist with the treatment. I felt, however, that in view of my experience I was best qualified to take charge of the treatment.

I have to thank Dr Winlancey, chief warden of the hospital, for permission to publish these notes.

DR JACK.

* * *

HOW lovely is the natural dancer to behold, free from studied grace and mechanical exactitude. Fortunately our Society frowns on competitive S.C.D. which breeds exhibitionism. Let us then demonstrate our art, if we must, with this in mind. So easy to forget that S.C.D. is, after all, a happy, carefree dance of the people.



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YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

BY THEM

(To the tune of "Three Little Maids" from "The Mikado")

Summer School teachers all are we
Strict as teachers well can be
Filled to the brim with fiendish glee
Teachers of S.C.D.

From Hastings and from Palmerston
(Madge, Mildred)
From the South we three have come
(Phyllis, Peggy, Elspeth)
With we three from Wellington
(Mirth, Edith, Jenny)
Teachers of S.C.D.

You come along quite all unwary
Of teachers at this seminary
They work you hard and seldom vary
Those teachers of S.C.D.

At Summer School there's lots of fun
You swim and lie out in the sun
But only when your work is done
For those teachers of S.C.D.

From the class you crawl away
And every muscle aches—but they
Expect you to come back for more next day!
Teachers of S.C.D.

You come along quite all unwary
Of teachers at this seminary
They work you hard and seldom vary
Teachers of S.C.D.

(To the tune of "The Mikado's Song," sung by Jackado Seton)

Our object all sublime
(We'll get it through in time)
Is—make the dancers dance in time,
To make them dance in time.
Straighten that knee—it's bent!
Point toes with firm intent.
They'll dance till all their energy's spent,
Till all their energy's spent!

* * *

ASK UNCLE HORACE

Dear Uncle Horace.—In 1964 a sweet young man took over as tutor of our club. Last week he asked me out to dinner, after which he saw me home. Did I do wrong? Heart Throb.

Don't you remember?

Dear Uncle Horace.—One new dance taught at Summer School proved very popular. Please advise if it was Televised. Wondering.

No. It was Tel-el-Kebir, the name of a famous battle. When not done properly, it has more resemblance to a battle than a dance.

Dear Uncle Horace.—Since our club tutor got his Preliminary Certificate he has threatened to use a strap to us if we don't pay attention. Do you favour the strap? Anti-Tawse.

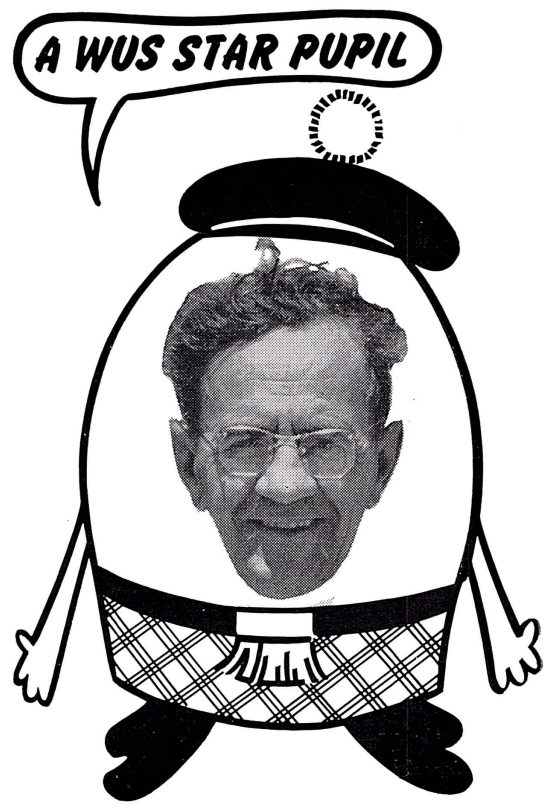
I am decidedly against any teacher having a strap. The Society should issue all teachers with machine-guns.

Dear Uncle Horace.—I think that dance terms should be simplified. Don't you agree?
Certified Teacher.

If these were any simpler there'd be no need for certified teachers.

Dear Uncle Horace.—What is the dance "Schiehallion" called after?
Eager for Knowledge.

It is a pleasure to get at least one sensible question. Schiehallion is a mountain overlooking among other places Braemar. It takes 168 bars to climb this peak and 48 to descend. There are no bars at the summit.



BRUCE GONK

EMBRO TAE THE PLOY!

By EDITH D. CAMPBELL, Wellington

"In simmer whan aa sorts foregether
in Embro tae the ploy . . .
. . . they come tae hae a week
o' cultivated joy —
or three —
at Embro tae the ploy."

(From a poem by Robert Garioch)

THERE can be few Scots—or folks interested in any Scottish "ploys" (S.C.D. for example)—who have not heard of the annual Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama, with its "official programme" of theatre, music, ballet, performed by artists from the four corners of the globe, while "the fringe" provides a great variety of entertainments, not a few having a definitely Scottish flavour. Such a one is the Silver Cross Club.

When the theatres and concert halls empty out their audiences the night is still young. This is the time to head for the Silver Cross Club.

About ten years ago six young Edinburgh folks, discussing this Festival business, decided that there was something they could contribute—a place where the city's visitors (especially the young ones) could really meet "the natives" and join in Scottish activities—not just sit and watch. Each one managed to produce £1 and so with a capital of £6 they embarked on the venture.

The name—the Silver Cross Club—is derived from Scotland's flag, the Saint Andrew's Cross. Behind the Castle, in Johnston Terrace, is Free St. Columba's Church and underneath is the Church Hall, which St. Columba's most generously lends to the Club. Artistic supporters provide mural decorations such as silhouettes of the Royal Mile or the Forth Bridge. The tall narrow windows are "painted" with figures of Scottish characters from history or story, the floodlighting outside the building producing a stained glass effect. At one end of the hall is a counter where one may buy such tasty delicacies as hot haggis-burgers, shortbread, oatcakes spread with heather honey, Selkirk bannock, Scottish gingerbread, Dundee cake . . . mmm . . . mmm! And, of course, tea or soft drinks. (The charge is small for these goodies—admittance and everything else is free!)

On a small platform is the band—usually Jim Nicholson's (whose records have recently become available in New Zealand—Jim is an excellent dancer himself and has been in international teams and on television shows). Around the hall are tables and chairs—if you are lucky you may find an empty one, but not infrequently the audience spills on to the floor for accommodation when the song sheets are handed out and everyone joins in the singing of some of the well-loved Scottish airs. There are usually a couple of solo singers who may sing anything from Burns' love lyrics to modern style songs (e.g. "The River Clyde"), puirt-a-beul (mouth music) to bothy ballads. I used to take my Scottish harp (clarsach) along sometimes, and occasionally my friend, Alice Urquhart, would take along her harp, too, and we would perform a kind of quartet—two harps and two voices!

Needless to say, no gathering representative of Scotland's glory would be complete without the skirl of the bagpipes—in fact this is the sound which leads you to the Club when it opens at 10 p.m. The piper walks up and down outside and the notes echo round the old buildings of the West Bow and the Grassmarket and creep up the Castle ramparts to vie with the music from the Tattoo on the Castle Esplanade high above. During the evening the piper plays again so that everyone may see "how it's done"—and some brave visitors try to "gie a blaw"—the sounds emitted are often gey queer!

Then there is the dancing—Scottish country dancing of course! A set of members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society demonstrate two or three dances—the last one being fairly simple—and then all the visitors are invited to "take a partner"—and they almost *all* do! The floor is crowded! American and African, Swede and Japanese, Brazilian and Indian, Kiwi and French—all jog and jostle their way through—perhaps—"The De'il Amang The Tailors," to the accompaniment of the band and a great deal of laughter, while the be-sashed and be-kilted "natives" valiantly pull and push! This happens several times during the evening. It is obvious that there should be regular S.C.D. held at the United Nations! The last time I heard, the Visitors' Book had signatures from 40 different countries!

One feels rather like Cinderella having to leave the Ball as the chimes from nearby St. Giles Cathedral solemnly ring out midnight and all the company join hands to sing "Auld Lang Syne." There is not one big circle but many circles, as over 200 people lustily sing the song which all the world knows. The atmosphere is so friendly and warm (metaphorically and physically!) that it is with reluctance people take their leave—it is not uncommon for the clearers-up to have to "sweep" them out!

It is a wonderful experience to be a part of the Silver Cross Club. From the visitors' point of view the welcome and feeling of hospitality is so genuine. For the "workers" the tremendous success of the evenings is reward enough for all the late nights (Mondays to Fridays, 10 p.m. till midnight, plus preparing and clearing-up time). All the helpers give their services entirely voluntarily (almost all have full-time jobs during the day, too).

When the three weeks "o' joy" are over, amongst the many finishing-off jobs, the cash is counted, the expenses are paid, and then—having laid aside £6 capital for the following year—any money still remaining is given to charity and the plans start for the next year's Festival. So you see that the Silver Cross Club is built on the joy of sharing Scotland's rich heritage with all who will accept the gift.

Young, or not-so-young, if you are planning to visit Edinburgh during some Festival time—or know of anyone who is (whether they are interested in S.C.D. at the moment or not, they will be!)—be sure to make a date for an evening at the Silver Cross Club. As you wander up the Royal Mile from Holyrood Palace, absorbing the history of that famous street, near the top you will be confronted by the tall spire of the Tolbooth Church. By all means go straight on up to visit the Castle, but later on take that street that goes off to the left —Johnston Terrace—and drop into the Silver Cross Club where you can become part of an historical tradition—Scottish hospitality!

* * *

KILTED IMBECILES

WHEN criticism is made in the "Letters to the Editor" column of a newspaper by some misguided crank hiding his identity under a cloak of anonymity, the natural inclination for the person or body attacked is to hit back hard. This at times brings others into the fray, and for that reason plus the satisfaction it gives the originator of a wordy controversy, such letters could be better ignored. But must one suffer a fool gladly?

Recently a group of Scottish country dancers were "got-at" after a happy evening of open-air dancing, which was reported in the Press as having a "village green atmosphere." In a letter to the editor "Nervous Wreck" had something less complimentary to say about the dancers and their music, resulting in a thrust and parry correspondence, which pro-S.C.D. won easily on points.

The "Wreck" was possibly unconscious of the humour in the diatribe. However, the barb was there and it was bitten on seriously: ". . . bunch of kilted imbeciles . . . Their ghastly Scottish music might have sounded sweet to them, but it was painful to me and other residents who had this torture inflicted on us. My early night after a hard day's work was ruined. Is there no law to protect us from inconsiderate people like these?"

Gosh, that was a bit too much for the dancers and those who enjoyed watching them, and, hackles up, they set to—with pen, not sword, as the enemy was invisible. The nervous one must have been drowned in the deluge of letters which flooded over his head and S.C.D. got a lot of free publicity, until the cryptic "This correspondence is closed.—Ed." appeared a fortnight later.

Quite apart from "Scots Wha Hae," "Happy Listener," "Up the Scots," "Mens Sana" and others, many put their names to letters supporting the dancers and castigating the neurotic one. Perhaps the softest blow of all was contained in the final permitted letter: "Should 'Nervous Wreck' care to contact me by telephone, I would extend to him a cordial invitation to spend a most enjoyable evening with us. I would be pleased to make arrangements for free transportation . "

After a hard day's work, the critic may spend a hard day's night and could not accept the kind invitation. Somebody should have reminded him that "Ye mony tramp on a Scottish thistle." But, then again, did he not get a kick out of the reaction to his sally?

Obituary:

MR WILLIAM J. LAIRD

Chief of the Wanganui Caledonian Society for a number of years and one of the old brigade of Scottish country dancing in New Zealand, Mr William Johnston Laird died at his home in Wanganui on March 25, 1965.

A veteran of two world wars, Bill was a Scot who had worked on various newspapers, including the "Dominion." Joining the advertising staff of "Wanganui Chronicle" shortly before World War II, he later formed his own advertising company, retiring in 1958.

With an abiding interest in S.C.D. and things Scottish, he was also a keen bowler. His presence will be missed by dancers in Wanganui, not least by the children he taught.

Bill is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. We here express our sincere sympathy to Mrs Laird and family.

NOTHING LIKE A GOOD REEL

AN EXTRACT FROM " PUNCH "

A PROGRAMME? Ah, thank you. Twenty dances, I see, and four extras. Reel—Waltz—" Waltz Country Dance "—" Eightsome Reel "—Country Dance " Flowers of Edinburgh "—" Reel of the 51st Division "—h'm. I will be bold and make shift to fill my programme with names: if one is to be here for eight or nine hours, as they tell me is likely, clearly one must dance. I came with a large party but did my best at dinner to commit to memory the faces of the ladies, and fancy that I succeeded fairly well. Their Christian names, in the custom of the country, are either Margaret or Jean, which does not help much. With the exception, that is, of the Italian (?) girl, whose name is Margharita. I shall attempt to arrange several dances with Margharita.

We enter the ballroom, a long and lofty chamber bedizened with coats of arms, broadswords, targes, claymores and the like. In the minstrels' gallery the minstrels are preparing for the first dance. I glance at my programme and find that I am dancing with the Ministry of Food.

This cannot be right. Ah, I remember: Miss Macbogle of Fleuch. Here she is, the gay young lady in the green sash. As we move into our places I am not unconfident. The " Eightsome Reel " is perhaps the one dance on the card that I may be said almost to have mastered. Come, come, who is this chieftain in the blue doublet with square buttons? And this other with all the cairngorms? Why, our " Eightsome " has enlarged itself quite unwarrantably to sixteen. My partner, looking not quite so gay, tells me that it is just the same as an " Eightsome " but one dances with only half the people. Yes, but which half?

A man in a kilt walks round tapping each of the eight men on the chest. As he taps me he says curtly, " Outside." Rather a relief, I must say. But no, it seems that I am to remain. Then what . . . ?

The music begins. Bow? Perhaps. Round to the left, like a wheel, two couples to a spoke, with ladies on the inside—easy. And back again. My partner has a very small waist. I dance at her and execute a birl. At least I think so: I am rather partial to executing birls. Now the chain effect, like the " Lancers," though it seems to me rather more like Coronation night in Piccadilly. I have battered my way half-way round before I realise what was meant by " outside." Apparently there are two concentric circles. Ah, well . . .

Two ladies in the middle now. This bit is easy. All I have to do is stand still and, as it says on the back of the programme, " refrain from excessive crying and shouting." But soon it will be time for the first pair of men to take the lists. Ah, here they are. Now, I must watch very carefully and see exactly what they do. Schiehallion! I am one of them. Surely there must be some mistake. Very well, I will see the thing through, revolving neatly to the left while the circle dances clockwise about me. Now the other way. Suddenly I am seized by the arm by my fellow-soloist, if that is the word. It is the redoubtable Hamish MacGashlie of Ben Gashbin, and he twirls me about, quite gratuitously, until I am giddy.

I come to rest, by great good fortune, opposite my partner, and dance with her. Now with her opposite number. Perhaps now, while I actually know what I am doing, would be the moment for a small—not excessive—cry or shout, but I feel that it might not go well with my trousers. A figure of eight. How is this ever possible with three people—or is it four?

More revolving—but no more twirling. I am ready for it this time and MacGashlie misses me and crashes into Margharita's partner (one of the four Ians in the party), disarranging his jabot slightly. But whom do I dance at now? I select a girl who seems to wear the correct expectant look of wooden unconcern and make my overtures to her. A tricky little hop to the left, a tricky little hop to the right, and hold out both my hands. No? Hers remain unconcernedly at her sides. She is gazing in my direction from a range of about a foot, so I take it that she observes me, but she shows no sign.

Lightning calculation tells me that I do not now dance with the opposite number of the girl who has just refused me. There remains only one possibility and upon her I advance. So does MacGashlie and, being bigger than me, jumps on my toe and elbows me to one side, so that I am back again in front of the spurner of my modest advances. In defiance of the Stewards I am ready to cry excessively, but lo! this time she accepts me and in a minute, if I can judge the moment for withdrawal, I shall be safely back on the perimeter.

. . .

Come, this is splendid! We will go on to the " Foursome." Where is Miss Macbogle of Fleuch?

Ah—where indeed?

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THE TASMANIAN STORY

GREETINGS to our country-dancing brothers and sisters in New Zealand from Tasmanian dancers. You don't know where Tasmania is? Well, well, well! It is the island State of the Commonwealth of Australia, a few miles across the Tasman Sea from your South Island. It is about the size of Scotland and its scenery is very similar to that of the Highlands. A large portion of the State is uninhabited and its population is about 360,000, almost equally divided between the north and the south. A large proportion of its people are Scots or of Scottish descent.

Scottish country dancing is comparatively new to Tasmania and it has only become popular during the past few years. Even today it is not strongly supported numerically but what it lacks in numbers is compensated for by enthusiasm. Eight groups exist throughout the island, six in the north and north-west and two whose headquarters are in Hobart. All have junior classes in addition to classes for adults and the age-range is very wide, from teenagers to those who turn a blind eye to the years which have passed since their teenage days. We certainly exemplify the fact that one is never too old to indulge in the exercise.

There are constant demands for exhibitions of Scottish country dancing from various charitable organisations, such as aged persons' homes, church groups, local concerts, etc., and the country dancers are kept very busy. Their displays are always very popular and gradually the population of Tasmania are becoming aware that Scottish country dancing does not include the "Highland Fling" and the "Sword Dance." An unusual engagement was recently fulfilled by the Tasmanian Caledonian Society Scottish Country Dance Group, when members gave a display to resident guests of the Government at Hobart Gaol.

Few of the dance groups exist in their own right, as most of them are groups of or are affiliated to the various Caledonian Societies. Neither are they centrally organised as they are in New Zealand, although the Scottish Country Dance Assembly, formed three years ago and based on Launceston, calls meetings of the various autonomous groups.

The primary function of the S.C.D.A. is deciding, on behalf of the Tasmanian Caledonian Council, after consultation with the various groups, what dances will be performed at the Annual Highland Games which are usually held in February or March. These displays, where upwards of 12 teams give demonstrations, are the highlights of the games. In addition, the S.C.D.A. organises an annual Assembly of Scottish Country Dancing, which is held in the evening of Games Day. These are very enjoyable functions, attended by dancers from all parts of Tasmania and, together with the games, present the only opportunity for country dancers throughout the State to meet.

All visitors from New Zealand will be most welcome and the addresses of the various groups will be found in the Scots Year Book.

PETER STRANACK FIFE.

CONFUSION, HE SAY

WHEN you are in a set that goes wrong and gets properly bamboozled, don't try to be a teacher's pet by saying in a voice that all can hear, "Please, teacher, it wisnae me—I just stood still." Show you have at least kept your sense of rhythm, even if it is only by tapping your foot to the music. By doing that you will convey to the teacher that at least part of one limb is capable of movement.

Teachers are really human. Should you talk in the set (especially when accompanied with a giggle), the teacher would like to hear what is said without recourse to an ear trumpet or other audio aid. After all, the strain of teaching sets, where all are potential teachers (?) and already know the dance, is a trial in itself, and anything that will lighten the stone that is called the heart of a teacher is very acceptable.

If you are following a dance from your written version: (1) Make sure you are reading the same dance as others in the set (failure to do so can lead to complications and is probably the greatest cause of general confufflement). (2) Fig. has nothing to do with fruit Eve. (3) If you are part of the hypotenuse in double triangles, be like Archimedes—float or melt into formation. So long as you remain in the same set there is no real harm done. (4) Smile. When you smile your partner does not know whether you are going to enjoy the dance or are simply preparing to laugh at your opposite number's mistakes. A sour, glum face can be interpreted by a partner in two ways: (a) You have accepted her/him as your good turn for the day or, (b) Your pet corn is beating a quicker tempo than the music.

In conclusion, a suggestion for the teachers' song for next Summer School—"When Will They Ever Learn?"

HUGH MIDD.

Huntly Caledonians—lion rampant and all—pause for a group photograph at their annual Ball.

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SECRETARY'S SUMMARY

THIS year it is pleasing to note that our club membership has increased. At the moment of writing we have 74 Member Clubs with five Affiliated Groups. Two Affiliated Groups have become Member Clubs, and three new groups have joined the Society. For the first time we have a group outside New Zealand—the Scottish Country Dance Club of Brisbane. It is sad to see two of our oldest clubs go into recess because of lack of numbers. Quite a few new clubs have joined this year to make our membership the highest we have had. The majority of clubs have new secretaries. It is interesting to note that in this tenth year of the Society only two clubs, Cambridge and Southern Cross, have retained the same secretaries.

If all our Associate Members retain their membership there should be about 350, although 85 of these have not yet paid. Our thanks to those who have followed up the suggestion at the Annual General Meeting of giving the cost of the magazine as a donation. Our Associate Membership has spread as far as Canada; others are in the British Isles and Australia.

Except at Summer School sales have been rather poor. Badges, pennants, monograms and records are available, as well as magazines.

COUNCIL

Office Bearers

PRESIDENT	Mr J. Seton, 216 South Willowpark Road, Hastings.
PAST PRESIDENT	Miss P. M. Gale, 30 Puriri Street, Riccarton, Christchurch.
N.I. VICE-PRESIDENT	Mr W. McPherson, 45 Hall Crescent, Lower Hutt.
S.I. VICE-PRESIDENT	Mr B. J. McMurtry, Wills Road, Harakeke, R.D. 2, Upper Moutere.
SECRETARY-TREASURER	Mrs M. M. Clancey, Box 72, Hokitika.
EDITOR	Mr H. Bruce, 420 Moray Place, Dunedin.
R.T.C. CHAIRMAN	Mrs M. Laing, Tomoana Cottages, Hastings.

Branch Representatives

AUCKLAND	Mr D. Sharpe, 19 McDonald Crescent, Mt. Wellington, Auckland.
WAIKATO	Mrs J. M. M. Thomson, Campbell Street, Leamington, Cambridge.
HAWKES BAY	Mr I. Seton, 806 Ferguson Street, Hastings.
WEST COAST (N.I.)	Mr J. Miller, 39 Young Street, Wanganui East.
WAIRARAPA	Miss A. Clark, 1 Kibblewhite Road, Masterton.
WELLINGTON	Mr J. Constable, 67 Trafalgar Street, Lower Hutt.
NELSON-MARLBOROUGH	Mr B. J. McMurtry, Upper Moutere.
CHRISTCHURCH	Mr D. Jenkinson, 403 Pine Avenue, Christchurch 7.
SOUTH CANTERBURY	Mr N. Guthrie, 49 Rathmore Street, Timaru.
OTAGO-SOUTHLAND	Mrs P. Hudson, 305 Pine Hill Road, Dunedin.

Branch Secretaries

AUCKLAND	Mr G. McRae, 41 Weiti Road, Orewa, Auckland.
WAIKATO	Miss C. Miller, 93 Cambridge Road, Hillcrest, Hamilton.
HAWKES BAY	Mr I. Seton, 806 Ferguson Street, Hastings.
WEST COAST (N.I.)	Mrs J. Miller, 39 Young Street, Wanganui East.
WAIRARAPA	Mrs C. J. Pate, Flat 2, 46 Victoria Street, Masterton.
WELLINGTON	Mr G. Hepplestone, 54 Highbury Road, Wellington.
NELSON-MARLBOROUGH	Miss S. Fowler, Parker Street, Motueka.
CHRISTCHURCH	Mr P. McEwan, 21 Flay Crescent, Christchurch 5.
SOUTH CANTERBURY	Mrs I. O'Hara, 14 Rolleston Street, Timaru.
OTAGO-SOUTHLAND	Miss M. Ronnie, Box 906, Dunedin.

BRANCH LINES

AUCKLAND BRANCH

President: Colin G. Laing.

Secretary: George R. McRae.

We have once more had a very active year, what with two trips to Cambridge, one to Hamilton and others.

The year started off when we were asked to supply a team of dancers for Jimmy Shand in the Kenneth McKellar Show—eight or nine shows in all. The dancers were trained by Ed Wilkie, and were complimented by Jimmy Shand. They also received a great hand from the audience.

In April a busload and others went the 95 miles to Cambridge to take part in the Centennial celebrations, where we had the pleasure of being introduced to Mrs Lesslie, who had then only been in New Zealand a few days.

Two Branch dances were held, one in May and another in September, which were well attended, both by the local and visiting dancers.

We held a very successful weekend school at Labour weekend, over 70 attending, and we are very grateful to the three teachers, Phyllis Gale, Mildred Clancey and Gary Morris. The school finished with an outdoor demonstration—seven teams taking part—at the show grounds, in conjunction with St. David's Presbyterian Church centennial celebrations. This was a good windup to a first-class weekend. We are hoping to have another school next Labour weekend.

CHRISTCHURCH, MID AND NORTH CANTERBURY BRANCH

President: D. Jenkinson.

Secretary: P. McEwan.

Once again the Branch has enjoyed a successful year and is looking forward to meeting dancers in the coming season.

The Queen's Birthday weekend school run by the Branch last year was well attended, and those present enjoyed the tuition so ably given by the tutors, Mrs Peggy Hudson and Mr Jack Seton.

Our Annual Meeting was very short, all officers being returned unopposed. We were pleased to accept into the Branch the Aranui Club who are very fortunate in having the services of Mrs Mima Clanachan as tutor.

To our member clubs, our best wishes for the coming year and thank you for your support during the past years.

HAWKES BAY AND EAST COAST BRANCH

Easter weekend once again attracted friends from near and far. Although the numbers of dancers in the massed display are diminishing they proved to be very popular with the spectators and were well applauded. The organisers were again confronted with the problem of having to change the display programme at the last minute due to a group of visitors who were full of enthusiasm but did not know of the listed dances. We appeal to the various club tutors to have a revision of the listed dances in order that those taking part have a reasonable knowledge of the display.

To many of us the Kenneth McKellar Show was the highlight of the year. Mrs Laing got a team into shape again and the cheers in the audience were worth all the nights of hard practice.

As the club formal dances are falling off due to lack of numbers attending, this year each club will run an informal dance on its usual club night and the Branch shall run an annual formal dance. The dates will, of course, be forwarded to the newsletter.

OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND BRANCH

President: Gwen Brinsdon.

Secretary: Mary Ronnie.

Treasurer: Lorna Keane.

This has been one of the most interesting and vital years for the Branch since its beginnings. The usual activities have been continued. A weekend school for advanced dancers proved very popular, Miss Phyllis Gale coming to Dunedin from Christchurch to put us through our paces with " Rob Roy " and the " Black Bear," as well as " Miss Janet Laing's Strathspey " and plenty of step practice to boot.

The annual Branch dance was held to coincide with the weekend school, and was very well attended.

Our second Festival Ceilidh took place on January 30 and was even better attended by both dancers and spectators than our first. As before, we had demonstration teams from Christchurch down to Invercargill and the programme was varied by singers, an accordionist and two solo Irish dances by Phyllis Gale. We were surprised and somewhat startled to be broadcast " live " by 4ZB for two ten-minute spells during the programme. This was a good sign of the interest in Scottish country dancing in Dunedin, as there were many other Festival events in the city that evening.

But the most important event of the year was the formation of the Southland Committee last August. We all knew that there were small clubs functioning in Southland, out of the sphere of the N.Z.S.C.D.S., but the formation

of a Branch at Invercargill was not possible because of lack of member clubs. So it was decided to form a committee in Southland, within the framework of the Branch activities, to unite all the small clubs in the area.

The Committee has its own constitution, organises activities in its area and also organises Branch events there when required. Now all the small clubs are able to play their part in country dancing co-operative activities, receiving help where needed, and getting companionship and advice from Branch headquarters. Their Committee president is Mrs Netta Branks, of St. Andrew's, Invercargill; secretary, Mrs Nola McFarlane, of Otatara; tutor, Mrs Allan, of St. Andrew's, Invercargill.

A pleasing number of members of the Branch attended the Summer School in Wanganui with Peggy Hudson and Elspeth Allan being among the teachers.

The Branch Newsletter continues with increased circulation and has proved a useful means of communication between the Branch executive and clubs and personal members.

SOUTHLAND COMMITTEE.—As several new clubs had sprung into being in Southland, it was felt that the time was ripe for some form of local government to control the affairs of the Southland part of the Otago Southland Branch.

With this in view a meeting of Scottish country dancers of Southland was held in Invercargill on August 1, 1964, under the chairmanship of Miss Mary Ronnie. At this meeting it was unanimously decided that a Southland Committee of the Otago Southland Branch be formed, which would in no way affect the loyalty of the Southland clubs to the Branch, but would make arrangements for local activities.

Eleven clubs have representatives on this Committee, and already it is proving its worth. An effort to raise funds was supported 100 per cent. and, at a recent Gala Day organised for Scottish Week in Invercargill, 120 dancers, under the leadership of Mrs Allan presented a massed display, which received very favourable comment from the spectators. We have been asked by the Branch to hold the weekend school in Invercargill this year and arrangements for this are well in hand.

We extend our thanks to Mrs Brinsdon, Branch president, and Miss Ronnie, Branch secretary, for their help in establishing the Committee and to the rest of the Branch for its co-operation.

SOUTH CANTERBURY BRANCH

Our Branch had a quiet but successful year.

The visit of Jimmy Shand to Timaru was really the highlight for us. The sets who danced to the music of Jimmy and his band had a memorable experience. To be able to dance to live music was just wonderful. Our thanks go to all who helped in the tutoring of these sets. All clubs in South Canterbury were represented.

The social weekend held in October was a success, and those who attended enjoyed the Ball on the Saturday night and the picnic on the Sunday.

Easter 1966 will be a big weekend in Timaru as the Branch will be running a weekend school, so save your pennies one and all, and join us—EASTER 1966 in Timaru.

WAIKATO BRANCH

President: Mrs J. M. M. Thomson.

Secretary-Treasurer: Miss C. M. Miller.

The Waikato Scottish Country Dance Association and Branch have had an active and successful year. The Jimmy Shand Show came and gave a lot of pleasure and interest. Most of the clubs contributed to this show and all went well. Coffee was provided during the evening. This gave the dancers the chance of meeting the " Big Guns " who were a very free and easy group.

Tauranga were congratulated on a very successful weekend school. It was a lovely winter weekend. Visitors from the south had to shed a few garments.

The A.G.M. was well attended and dance dates were discussed, and care was taken to see they were well spaced out.

We are all set for a good year of Scottish country dancing.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT BRANCH

A shadow over 1964 was the reduction in the number of clubs from eight to five. Randwick had been in recess all year, Wallaceville followed in June and it was decided to dissolve the Eastbourne Club, as eight young members were to be married in the next few months and, with others, would be leaving the district. We hope that members from those three clubs will manage to dance occasionally elsewhere.

But the highlights were many. The dance evenings at Percy Reserve were very well attended and, for once, no cancellations were necessary due to inclement weather.

Three sets gave a display at the Tawa Caledonian Games. This was much appreciated by the organisers of the games, but we hope that next February a few more sets will be there to make a real massed display.

In April, a most successful day school was held at Kelburn. Efficient planning by Miss Mirth Smallwood made this day one to be remembered by close on 100 dancers. Our grateful thanks go to Mirth, and also to the other teachers, Mrs Edith Campbell and Mrs Betty van Loo. To the Kelburn Club, we extend our deep appreciation of all the hospitality given and the time spent in helping to make the school such a success.

Mrs Marion Head was unable to teach the advanced class this year, but we were fortunate in securing Mrs Edith Campbell as teacher of the class, which met once a month at the Ngati-Poneke Hall in Wellington. Mrs Campbell also coached demonstration sets to be on stage with the Kenneth McKellar Show.

Another outstanding event was a visit from Mrs Florence Lesslie, who ran a day school in Wellington for the certificated teachers in New Zealand and who, in the evening, came with her " pupils " to the Lower Hutt dance. With so many critical eyes around, we all danced our best and convinced Mrs Lesslie that the standard of New Zealand dancing was not too far behind that of her native Edinburgh. We appreciated the very fine way the Lower Hutt Club organised the dance and the generous hospitality given once more by the folks in Kelburn.

The club dances have again allowed us to get together, meeting old friends and becoming acquainted with new dances that our particular club was not learning. All have been very successful, but it was disappointing we did not round off such a good year with a Branch dance.

AROUND THE CLUBS

ANDERSON'S BAY S.C.D. CLUB.—Although the Club returned to St. Michael's Hall, Elliott Street, at the beginning of 1964, members have been just as enthusiastic as before.

This is perhaps due to Miss Mary Ronnie, who we have been fortunate to have as our tutor. Mary is an extremely busy person, and we are very grateful to her for giving us one night a fortnight. Congratulations, Mary, on passing your Preliminary examination at Wanganui S.S. Of course, we knew you would be successful.

The final night of the year took the form of a Hallowe'en night, with witches, black cats, ghosts and the devil "himself" present. Mary was M.C., with very doubtful assistance from "Billie," a white cockatoo, who had his own ideas as to how a dance should be called.

The Club was represented at the Branch Festival Ceilidh 1965.

We extend to all Scottish country dancers best wishes for the 1965 season. A cordial welcome is assured anyone who visits us at any time.

ASHBURTON S.C.D. CLUB.—Ours is a comparatively new club, having really started in earnest in March, 1964, with a membership of 16. Slowly at first, then gradually gathering momentum, our numbers grew to 50, which surely is very good for a town of 12,000. The assistance given us by Christchurch groups was an encouragement, as we had a shaky beginning, and we offer thanks to them for helping us to become established.

As the winter months flew by, we decided to return some of the kindness shown us and we organised what was for us a big night in October. Over 200 attended and it was voted a roaring success. By the way, we will be running a similar evening in October of this year. Won't you join us?

During the season we were invited to dance at a number of functions, where we enjoyed ourselves and hoped the audiences did also.

To all Scottish country dancers we in Ashburton wish an enjoyable and prosperous year. We also tender a warm welcome to any who may be in our area. Come and dance with us, Wednesday nights at 7.30, in the R.S.A. Rooms, West Street.

BALMORAL S.C.D. CLUB, OAMARU.—Our Club has had another successful and enjoyable year. We have a roll of 50 members, with an average of three to four sets dancing most Tuesday evenings. Mr Butler took over the beginners' classes this year and, judging by the number of keen new members who joined us on Tuesday evenings after his classes finished, had a successful season.

The Club has given several demonstrations during the year, beginning with the first Ceilidh for the Dunedin Festival Week. We had a set dancing in the Opera House for the Kenneth McKellar Show. Sets have also danced for the Salvation Army, the P.S.S.A., the Eveline Small Bore Rifle Club, Papakaio School and the Totara Bonfire.

Another weekend refresher course was held in April, with Les Jack as tutor, and was much appreciated by all who attended.

The Club has been represented at the open dances of the Strathallan, Palmerston, Geraldine, Timaru, Winchester, Seacliff, Glencoe, Totara Valley, Otematata, Burns, Ashburton and Waimate Clubs. Our own open dance in April in St. Patrick's Hall was a great success and enjoyed by everyone. This year we have also visited Waimate and Otekaike for club evenings, and they have come to our club nights. Our dance in November provided a fitting close to a good and profitable season's dancing.

Officials for the new season: President, Mr C. M. Sime; Acting Secretary, Mr Sime; Tutor, Mr E. Beattie.

BLUEBELL S.C.D. CLUB.—Emphasis last year was centred round increasing the membership of the Club, and a measure of success was achieved by increasing the roll from 20 to 75. This sharp increase in members made it necessary for us to find a larger hall, and we were fortunate to obtain the assembly hall at Hokowhitu School in Albert Street, where we meet every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

In July the Club held a social evening to enable club members to meet Mrs Lesslie, recently arrived from Scotland.

Our formal dance, held in September, was a very enjoyable evening, although the attendance was not as big as we would have liked. This year we shall be holding our dance on July 10 and we hope that members of neighbouring clubs will feel more inclined to travel at that time of the year.

Unfortunately, we had to start off the New Year by saying farewell to Mildred and Win Clancey. Mildred has been the Bluebell's tutor since the Club's inception and Win has done a terrific amount of work for the Club in many capacities. We wish them the best of luck in Hokitika.

Good luck to all S.C.D. clubs throughout the country. Do call in to see us any club night you find yourself in Palmerston North.

BRAEMAR S.C.D. CLUB.—We will be meeting this year at the Lyons Memorial Hall, Anzac Street, Takapuna, Auckland, on Tuesday, at 7.30 p.m. So far the numbers attending at this new hall have been very encouraging.

Although the numbers fell away towards the end of last year, the dancing was thoroughly enjoyed by those who continued to the end of the year.

A junior section was started last year and this proved very popular, some of the members dancing at two school functions during the year. This junior club still meets at St. Paul's Church Hall, Devonport, on Thursday at 7 p.m.

A successful club picnic was held at Motuhi Island on February 20. After games and swimming, dancing on the beach was enjoyed, as the tide receded.

We are fortunate in having Mrs May Whyte as tutor again and Mrs Irene Bandy as president.

If you are on "the North Shore" any time, a warm welcome awaits you at the Braemar Club in Takapuna.

BURNS S.C.D. CLUB.—Another milestone has been passed in the long life of our Club. You will notice a change in name, as the Club decided to make a break from the Dunedin Burns Club, which had been our Mother through the years. This is only a change in name as the relationship has not changed at all.

Again it has been a very successful year, as we ended the season with 120 adults, and we had to close the teenage group at 50. The Club is indebted to Avis and Les Jack for their continued interest in the Club and for their very efficient teaching.

During this last year, the committee decided that we would make full visits to the country clubs and subsidised buses so that the trips would be available to everybody. This has proved very successful in that the relationship between the clubs has been enhanced, and, what is perhaps more essential, the relationships between our members has been strengthened. These little jaunts made new and lasting friendships.

Interest on the matrimonial side runs very high. We like to see this happen, more especially when the married couples still retain their membership and interest in the Club. Congratulations to Anne and Brian Fitzwater, Gladys and Ron Macmillan and to Ann and John McIntosh. To those who have become engaged, we add our best wishes.

This year, we decided to break away from the open night idea and have one night when two clubs could visit, as it was felt that open nights did not do very much towards getting to know the individual members of other clubs. Our most successful night in this respect was the evening we entertained the country clubs.

Another innovation was that we were able to ask Mrs Mima Clanachan, of Christchurch, to give us an intensive course on a Saturday for the correction of faults and the checking up of basic principles. The response of our members was so great that the process will be repeated this coming year. Our thanks to Mrs Clanachan for a most interesting and instructive session.

We are proud of the interest taken by our members in S.C.D. as a whole, as apart from the associates of the Society we have four life members of the R.S.C.D.S. and 12 ordinary members.

Many of our members attended Summer School at Wanganui. We wish good luck to Romaine Butterfield (now living in Napier) in the second part of the Teacher's examination, having now passed the Preliminary.

Our home in Dunedin is still in the Y.W.C.A. Hall, just opposite the Public Library. There is always "Welcome" on the mat on Monday nights for any who would like to sample our hospitality.

Here's to a good year for all, this year.

CAMBRIDGE S.C.D. SOCIETY.—This was an important year for the Cambridge Society. Last October the tenth Annual Ball was held. The Society made a special occasion of this and well over 200 Scottish country dancers and friends were there to enjoy the evening.

Earlier in the year the Society played its part in the Jimmy Shand Show at Hamilton. It was a good night.

This year is off with a good start. The membership is up and there is promise of more. Wednesday night is dancing night and a warm welcome is given to any dancers who come along.

CANTERBURY CALEDONIAN S.C.D. CLUB, CHRISTCHURCH.—Greetings "around the Clubs" on our first appearance in these columns. Having completed a most enjoyable year, our enthusiasm has carried us on to join with the other clubs relating the highlights of their activities each year for interested readers.

Attendances rose during the season, the average being six sets with a maximum of 10 sets, indicating, we hope, that our programme compares favourably with TV on Monday nights. Under the patient and enthusiastic guidance of Ran Ingram, a gay, social atmosphere pervaded Club nights. We were also fortunate to have an active committee chaired by Dave McFarlane to organise the Club's activities.

The highlight of the year was the night members from other clubs within the Branch area were entertained, about 180 attending to make an extremely pleasant and sociable evening of dancing.

Some of our members assisted the Branch team for the Kenneth McKellar Show, and danced on several occasions for our Caledonian concerts and charitable organisations.

Several members took advantage of the Branch school during Queen's Birthday weekend, and Summer School at Wanganui. Our Club was also well represented at the annual dances of other clubs in Christchurch and at Cheviot, Methven, Ashburton and Geraldine.

To any dancers visiting Christchurch any Monday evening, a warm welcome awaits you at the Caledonian Hall—we look forward to meeting you, old friend or new. We are anticipating an even better year in 1965, and wish all clubs the same.

CHRISTCHURCH S.C.D. CLUB.—So another year has passed. Nineteen sixty-four saw us firmly established in the Horticultural Hall, although some nights may have been "a bit of a tight fit" I'm sure the "togetherness" helped to increase the friendly atmosphere of the Club.

Our Saturday dance at Queen's Birthday weekend, with Jack Seton as Master of Ceremonies, also heralded the tenth annual visit of the Southern Cross Club, Dunedin, to Christchurch. To add to the celebrations, a birthday cake was cut by Phyllis and Peggy, and what a "pretty" picture they made trying to blow out the ten candles. We know, we have seen some of the photographs! Sorry, they are not for official publication—they won't get past the censor!

During the year a dance was held, the proceeds of which were given to the Soroptomist Club of Christchurch (Inc.), who used these proceeds to help purchase an invalid chair for the use of multiple sclerosis patients at their new club rooms. I'm sure all those who attended, especially the large gathering of spectators, would be thrilled to know that we in some small way were able to assist with such a worthy cause.

A Christmas party brought to an end the Club's activities for the year. The hall really looked festive, especially with "The Tree" bright with coloured lights, tinsel and other decorations. Father Christmas arrived on a cart drawn by four fairies all the way from Benbecula. It must have been quite a flight, as after they had done their little dance they all seemed a trifle "all in." Even the fairies' wings looked a little droopy. Later the "Portly Old Gentleman" dispensed small gifts and wished one and all the compliments of the season.

We in turn extend to all Scottish country dancers throughout New Zealand, wishes for a happy year's dancing for 1965.

CORSTORPHINE S.C.D. CLUB.—Greetings, fellow Scottish country dancers.

Once again we are off to a good start, for another season of dancing. Membership is about the same. Small in number, but all with plenty of enthusiasm.

One of our girls was chosen to dance in the set for the visiting Kenneth McKellar Show, and we also managed once again to have a set demonstrate at the Ceilidh. Organised by the Otago Southland Branch as one of Dunedin's Festival Week attractions, the Ceilidh is proving to be very popular, both with the public and with dancers alike.

Our open night last year was one of our most successful, and we thank all who supported us. This year we are holding the open night dance on May 29 at Wesley Hall, and we will be pleased to welcome any of you along.

May we, through the "Dancer" congratulate Peggy Hudson in gaining her Teacher's Certificate and Mary Ronnie, who passed her Preliminary test in the past year, and also other dancers who have been successful.

Should any visitors care to dance with us on Club nights, we meet at the same place (Corstorphine School), same time (Tuesdays, 7.30), same teacher (Lorna Keane).

Good luck and good dancing to all clubs throughout New Zealand.

GISBORNE CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.—The first dance class for 1964, held on the first Tuesday in March in the Old Folk's Hall, Bright Street, attracted a good attendance of members, both old and new. Under the able guidance of our teacher, Mr John Bauld, members commenced their dancing with enthusiasm.

During last year, 16 new members joined the Society, making a total of 75 adult and seven junior members. In addition to the weekly dance class, an occasional Saturday night class, which usually took the form of an advanced class, proved popular.

On the third Saturday of each month we held an Ingleside, with country dancing interspersed with items and Old-Time dances. A few simple dances were included for the children, the "Cumberland Reel" being their special favourite.

Our open dance took place in May and visiting dancers from Napier, Hastings and St. Andrew's Clubs were very welcome. A number of our members returned the visits and attended the various open dances in Hawkes Bay. One or two members also visited Hastings for their Highland Games.

One of the highlights of the season's activities was the one-day school held in July, when we enjoyed the expert tuition of Mrs Madge Laing.

The main social event of the year was our tenth Annual Dinner, which was attended by 120. Preceding the dinner members and guests mingled at a cocktail party. The guest speaker was Mr Ian Seton, who delighted his listeners with his description of a tour of the Scott Country, to Edinburgh and on to Glasgow. Mr Seton spoke of the fame of Scots scientists and of the industry in Glasgow and on the Clyde.

Our party on Hallowe'en was well attended, and dimmed lights lent an eerie atmosphere to the hall, which was appropriately decorated with black cats, witches on broomsticks, ghosts and pumpkins. Members arrived in costumes ranging from traditional witches and fairies to a space woman.

In November the City of Napier Highland Pipe Band visited Gisborne to attend the Caledonian Society's Ingleside. Members of the band gave piping items and accompanied several dances.

The Society combined with the Piping and Dancing Association to organise a St. Andrew's concert. A demonstration set of dancers was included in the programme. Demonstration sets were also in demand at various local functions during the year.

The dance class regretfully concluded at the end of November. Members took the opportunity to make a small presentation to Mr J. G. McIvor, Chief of the Society, and Mr J. Bauld, Senior Chieftain and dancing tutor.

The final event of the year was the children's Christmas party. Following the "party tea" the children enjoyed games until the arrival of Father Christmas, when each child was presented with a gift from the Christmas tree.

Several of our members travelled to Wanganui for Summer School, where their dancing techniques were polished and many friends made with fellow dancers.

To all dancers who may be visiting Gisborne—you will be most welcome to join us for a night's dancing on Tuesdays or at our Inglesides.

Best wishes and happy dancing to all for 1965.

HASTINGS S.C.D. CLUB.—We have had a quiet but successful year under the able tuition of Madge Laing. Having changed our place of meeting to the Oddfellows' Hall in Ellison Road, we are hoping new life will be brought to the Club.

Our dance in the Old Folk's Hall went with a swing and was most enjoyable both for our members and for the numerous visitors.

We offer a warm invitation to any dancers visiting Hastings to join us on Wednesday at 7.30. You will enjoy a night out with us, so make it a date.

HEATHER S.C.D. CLUB, STRATFORD.—Under the able tuition of Nan Lawson and Marina Roskilly we have completed our second year of dancing, and a most enjoyable and happy one. This year promises to be brighter with more members to join in the fun.

Our formal in August was well attended and we hope to see familiar faces again this year. In October we were pleased to welcome Miss Phyllis Gale, the Society President, to our Club. This evening was a combined Taranaki Club Social and we look forward to more of these.

We had two weddings during 1964 and we wish Marina Durrans and Colin Roskilly, Brenda Mackay and John Stewart many years of happiness. Our congratulations also to Allison and Peter Miller on the birth of a son.

At Summer School Marina passed the first part of her Teacher's Certificate examination. We congratulate her and wish her well for next year.

Dancing for 1965 is under way and visitors are always welcome on Tuesday nights at the Avon School Hall in Stratford.

HUNTLY CALEDONIAN S.C.D. CLUB.—We are a comparatively new group, yet, starting our season in February last year, within a few weeks our membership rose to 178, two-thirds of whom became financial members and were regular weekly attenders.

During 1964 we held four Caley evenings, which proved outstandingly successful—real family gatherings. Our Ball, on August 8, was the highlight of a season which finished on November 2. Enthusiasm continued till the end and members were reluctant to close down.

Our sincere thanks go to Ray Hogg, who especially excelled himself with his patient good work with younger members. We are indeed fortunate to have the valuable assistance of Mr and Mrs Hogg in our Club.

We are looking forward to another successful season, with keen approaches from old and intending new members.

Our Ball this year is to be held on Saturday, August 14.

Best wishes and many happy nights' dancing to all Scottish country dancing friends in 1965.

INNES S.C.D. CLUB, AUCKLAND.—We are pleased to say that our membership rose steadily during 1964. Undoubtedly this was due to our children's class, which has strengthened our "wee" Club considerably. Miss Margaret Bryson took both classes on Monday nights.

Our annual dance was well attended by clubs from as far off as Warkworth in the north to Hamilton in the south, as well as our sister clubs in the Auckland area. It is very gratifying to have such support from other clubs at such a function.

We were privileged to have a few of our dancers in the Branch teams dancing at the Kenneth McKellar Show.

Several of our younger members spent an enjoyable and profitable time at Wanganui Summer School, and no doubt are anxious to put into practice all they have learned.

We are very sorry to lose Jim Gordon, our treasurer, and will miss his keen assistance. We wish him all the best down in Gore.

Best wishes to all clubs, and a welcome awaits anyone in our vicinity on a Monday night.

KIRRIEMUIR S.C.D. CLUB.—One of the main snags with a club such as ours in a construction town like Otematata is the floating population. However, despite losing our tutor and founder member, Mrs Dorothy Maddock, who moved to Nelson at the beginning of the season, under the guidance of our new tutor, Mrs Margaret Jarvis, with encouragement from Mr Frank Butler and other friends in Oamaru and Waimate, we have had a very enjoyable season.

We have lost at least 13 keen members who have moved on to fresh pastures, and we wish them merry dancing wherever they may be.

We are looking forward to this new season and hope to make more friends in North Otago and South Canterbury in the visits we make to each other's clubs.

KNOX S.C.D. CLUB, AUCKLAND.—Nineteen sixty-four was another successful dancing year for Knox. Under the tuition of Mr Ed Wilkie the Club had a busy season with many new members and visitors.

Jimmy Shand's visit with the Kenneth McKellar Show was a highlight. Some of our members trained to dance in the show.

The Club was invited to give numerous demonstrations during the year, and these were enjoyed very much both by the dancers and the spectators.

Any dancer visiting or permanently living in Auckland will be given a warm welcome on Monday nights in the R.S.A. Hall, Parnell Road, Parnell, at 7.45.

KNOX SOCIAL CLUB, INGLEWOOD.—It was with regret that we lost Mr and Mrs Stewart, who have left this district. Grace and Shah, as they were better known, started the Inglewood Club and have led it for eight years. How fortunate for us. They were made life members of our Club at the close of last season.

The year has passed all too quickly again. We have a good muster of young dancers coming along, who will be an asset this year.

To our many friends we have made through Scottish country dancing, we send our greetings and hope that we will be seeing you again.

LOWER HUTT S.C.D. CLUB.—This has been one of the most socially successful years we have experienced. Although we have been small numerically, we have made up for it in enthusiasm and friendliness.

We ran two formal dances during the year, and the Club members are grateful to the members of the committee, and the social committee for their efforts on both occasions. The second of these is worthy of special mention, when we were hosts to Mrs Lesslie, of the R.S.C.D.S., who was examiner at Summer School for those wishing to sit the Preliminary examination for Teacher's Certificate.

Also present were Miss Phyllis Gale, New Zealand President, Mr Jack Seton, North Island Vice-President, and the teachers from the clubs throughout New Zealand who were attending a refresher course in Wellington. They were much impressed with our efforts to entertain them, and commented on our tasteful decorations.

Our club nights have been very successful, and we must extend our congratulations and thanks to Mirth Smallwood. We are very fortunate to have the services of a teacher who is so highly qualified. She has carried out her duties efficiently and tactfully, and we have learned many lovely dances. Thanks, Mirth.

Once again we have to thank Mrs Douglas for the very efficient way she has carried out her duties as secretary. Unfortunately, we lost her services at the end of the 1964 season. She had been secretary-treasurer of the Club since its inception and had carried a big responsibility. Bill McPherson, who has been president for all those years, personally thanks her for her unstinted co-operation and help, and hopes the Club members also appreciate all she has done.

We are also to lose the services of Alex Douglas on account of his health. He has been a source of help to the Club since its beginnings, and lately has been attending to the music section. We all wish him better health, and hope to see him again at our functions next year.

MARLBOROUGH S.C.D. CLUB.—Another successful year has ended for the Adult and Children's Clubs. Several demonstrations were given during the year, principally the Save the Children Campaign Gala. These were well received and gave a great deal of pleasure.

Of course, the highlight of the season, was the visit by the Kenneth McKellar Show. Members from Picton and Marlborough combined and danced at the matinee and evening shows.

Our thanks to Mirth Smallwood who made the trip from Wellington in July to help us with our one-day school, from which all members benefited.

The annual picnic, held in the Keneperu Sounds, at the residence of Mr and Mrs P. Jellyman, was also an occasion to remember, with Ross Holdaway and his aunt lassoing the biggest fish, a shark. Well done, Aunty.

We now meet on Thursday nights at the Methodist Hall, Hutchison Street, and will be pleased to greet old friends and welcome new ones.

MARTON S.C.D. CLUB.—We started our 1964 season, with an invitation to dance at the Marton Scottish Society's Highland Games held in Marton Park. There's something about dancing in the open that leaves one with the feeling, this is how it all originated. Our demonstration proved very popular, that a further invitation to dance at the Society's Ingleside soon followed. All our members were included in the invitation, and it was a most enjoyable night.

Each year our Club organises a concert for the patients of Lake Alice Hospital. We contact local people with a variety of talents, and a well-balanced programme is arranged. Last year we had the help of a number of Marton's Scouts who gave a burlesque mannequin show and some humorous sketches. The star turn of the night proved to be ourselves. We stood on the stage in our sets, bowed and curtsied to the opening bar of music and nothing happened. Start again. Once more bows and curtsies to the music and then nothing. By this time the audience were really enjoying themselves and so were we. The fault was found and rectified, and, our dances completed, we left the stage with the cheers of the patients in our ears. I can't help wondering if they thought we'd planned it that way.

In May we danced at the ninetieth anniversary celebrations of the Bulls Presbyterian Church in the Town Hall. The audience was most appreciative and many were very enthusiastic about becoming members. However, on the night our Club meets there is another organisation meeting and so we still have the few who normally come.

Our A.G.M. for 1965 is now behind us and we're off to another year of dancing and fun and warm friendships. The kilts are out of mothballs, sporrans and shoes all spic and span. Where's the first dance of the season? Let's go to a year of happy dancing. Best of luck to the "New Zealand Scottish Country Dancer."

MOSGIEL S.C.D. GROUP.—Our Group commenced activities for the year on March 1, and we look forward to another successful and happy time of dancing. We are fortunate in still having Mr and Mrs Arthur Miller coming out from Dunedin each Monday night to put us through our paces.

This year we also have a learners' class, which was made possible by Mr Jim Pendreigh willingly offering his services as instructor. The class is proving very popular and learners are attending regularly.

Our open night last year was a happy affair and this year we look forward to an even bigger and brighter night with a larger hall booked for the occasion.

We were pleased to have a set representing us at the Ceilidh held in Dunedin during Festival Week, and they were very well received.

Our Group meets every Monday night at 7.30 in the Presbyterian Sunday School Hall, and we are always happy to welcome visitors.

MOUTERE HILLS S.C.D. CLUB.—Although our Club membership is not very large we have many enjoyable evenings, particularly Saturday night socials, when sister club members often join us.

We are pleased to have Hazel and Bill Inglis from the Douglas Club, near Invercargill, with us now. And another new member we are proud of is Mrs Patricia Curran, who, as a child and a pupil of a deaf and dumb school in Scotland, danced before the Queen.

The children in our Club are enthusiastic members and have been honoured to dance in several displays, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

NAPIER S.C.D. CLUB.—We had a very successful and happy dancing year in 1964 with a number of new members to swell our ranks.

Mrs Nancy Baxter, our tutor since the Club was formed 11 years ago, gave up her position during the year, and we thank her for all the enjoyable times we have had during that time. Since then, the Club has been taken by Margaret Passmore and Carine Jackson.

We made our usual visit to Taradale, which is always enjoyable, and this year had a surprise visit from Hastings Club.

A set was invited to give a demonstration at a social gathering of the St. John Ambulance Association, and this was of particular interest as two of the set were members of St. John.

Once again the Kenneth McKellar/Jimmy Shand Show was around, enjoyed by everyone who attended and specially by our three members who were in the demonstration team. It was a great thrill for the members of this team, who especially enjoyed the tuition beforehand from Mrs Madge Laing.

Just recently, our former Club President, Mr Durie, and Mrs Durie, who were founder members of the Club, left on a trip to Scotland, and to them go our best wishes for a very happy holiday.

We still meet each Friday night at the Orange Hall, Carlyle Street, and any visitors to Napier will be made most welcome.

NELSON S.C.D. CLUB.—Our Club had another successful year in 1964. Mr Jim Patterson was our President and Dr Alan Eyles Secretary-treasurer, both members doing a good job.

We started off in January, with a swim and picnic tea at Tahuna Beach. This was followed by dancing on the lawn of the Archery Club, and was well attended by members, attracting many onlookers.

Adult classes, under Molly MacArthur, started on March 5 and junior classes were instructed by Flora and Jean Macdonald, on March 7.

Club members attended both Richmond and Stoke Clubs' birthday socials during May. All round, May was an active month, the highlight being the visit of the Kenneth McKellar Show, with Jimmy Shand. A team from the district, including two Club members, danced at each performance of the show. A pleasant and informal supper party to members of the show was given one evening after the concert, and was enjoyed by all. On behalf of the Club, Kenneth McKellar was presented with a brooch for his wee baby daughter. Jimmy Shand was made a life member of the Club. Jimmie Shand and his band gave a concert at Braemar Hospital one morning during his visit to Nelson and asked Club members to dance to his music—a great thrill to all who had this opportunity.

Each year the Club gives a concert at Ngwhatu and Braemar Hospitals, and this year also entertained members of the Old Folk's Association and the residents of Whareama Home for the Elderly. Otago Girls' High School Club invited members to dance at one of their social evenings and eight lady members attended and had an enjoyable evening.

The eleventh birthday of the Club was held in July and took the form of a social held in the Old Folk's Hall. It was good to see old and new friends from sister clubs in the district at this celebration. To show Scottish country dancing keeps up with fashion, Nelson Club imported some "topless dresses" and in them did a demonstration dance. The "ladies" wore topless white dresses and a sash, and the "men," bottomless Highland costume (the kilt). We never knew before that we had such bonnie lassies

in our Club! Perhaps we should mention, the men wore ladies' costumes and vice versa. Any way, the item caused much amusement, and an encore was impossible because of laughter and general hilarity.

A very successful innovation on this year's programme, was a one-day school for the junior class. This was conducted by Miss Mirth Smallwood, from Wellington, and was attended by 24 enthusiastic youngsters. We hope to repeat it in 1965.

Once again Nelson Club joined with the Scottish Society for a Hallowe'en party. Adult and junior members had a good evening in spite of the ghosties and long leggity beasties that decorated the hall.

November came, and the closing evening all too soon. The junior class had their party on November 14, and the adults a week later. At the latter party members were asked to wear something to represent the name of a Scottish country dance, and some weird and wonderful costumes were to be seen at this happy social.

During the recess period a farewell evening was given to Mr and Mrs Don Nicholson, who have been good friends to the Club. A party at the home of Mr and Mrs John Wilson was given for Club member Elaine Clarke, prior to her wedding.

In looking back over the year we note that both adult and junior membership was increased. In the season 1965 we hope to have even larger numbers enjoying our classes and social functions, and extend a hearty welcome to all Scottish country dancers who are visiting Nelson.

NEW PLYMOUTH S.C.D. CLUB.—Nineteen sixty-four was, on the whole, a successful year. TV, of course, made itself felt and new members are becoming increasingly hard to find. The core of stalwarts, the backbone of every club, are still enthusiastic and very dependable.

The year saw an increased number of interchange of visits with other Taranaki Clubs—a healthy sign. The spirit of competition is abroad and provided the present co-operation between clubs continues, this should do a power of good in Taranaki and augurs well for a future branch here.

The Club once again organised demonstrations at the New Plymouth Opera House and also for local charitable institutions; all were well received.

A one-day school was run on behalf of the Branch; this was well attended and was successful socially, financially and educationally.

Hallowe'en saw New Plymouth invaded by a fine array of witches and wizards. Most of the ancient customs were observed at this Club party plus some new ones. The impromptu witches' chorus heard over the local radio station was one of the latter. It will be difficult not to make the Hallowe'en party an annual event after such an auspicious inaugural function.

The tenth Annual Ball was held at the fine new Devon Intermediate School Hall. It was well attended, and a good time was had by one and all—we hope.

A junior class was run by Miss Butterfield, and we hope this nursery for future adult members will continue.

NORTH-EAST VALLEY S.C.D. CLUB.—Our Club opened in March, 1964, with a band of very enthusiastic members, and a most successful season was enjoyed by all. There has been an actual membership of 24, and an average attendance of between 24 and 30.

We were fortunate in having the services of Mrs Margaret Wright as tutor and are most grateful to her for her efforts. We would also like to convey our thanks to Mrs Peggy Hudson and Mrs Lorna Keane for their help during Mrs Wright's absence.

Some of our keener members visited a number of other clubs during the year, while we in turn were visited by members from these clubs. These evenings were most enlightening, and our members profited by the chance to dance with more experienced dancers.

A team of members was coached by Mrs Wright for the 1965 Ceilidh, and again this was an experience which was most enjoyable.

We wish to thank the foundation committee, with Mrs McInnes as president and Mrs Gilchrist as secretary-treasurer, for their efforts in forming the Club.

Our congratulations go to Mrs Hudson, Miss Mary Ronnie and others who have passed their teaching examinations.

Our president for the season is Mrs Annie Jack, and our meetings are held every Monday evening in the Upper Hall of the North-East Valley Presbyterian Church, James Street, commencing at 7.45. A cordial invitation is extended to members of other clubs to join us.

In closing best wishes and many hours happy dancing to all for 1965.

OTATARA S.C.D. CLUB.—We send greetings to all other Scottish country dancers from "way down South" at Otatara.

Our 1964 season opened on March 16 with about 40 dancers, and when the season closed we had 67 financial members. Our members all attend fairly regularly, even though some travel long distances to take part in an evening's dancing.

Mrs Peggy Hudson was our tutor at a school held early in May, when 40 of our members took part in the day's tuition. We all enjoyed the dancing and felt it was well worth while. In the evening we held our first tartan night for the season and welcomed dancers from nearly all the other Southland clubs.

Our third birthday party was the other tartan night held for the season, and again we were lucky to have a packed hall.

This year our new badges came from the manufacturers, and the design really looked good, the different enamels being outlined with silver. Our members wasted no time in buying the badges and wearing them proudly on all occasions possible.

Financially we are very healthy, after donating money to the hall and to the Intellectually Handicapped Children's Appeal. We have a good stock of records and other essential equipment.

An entrant in the Miss Personality Quest, held in conjunction with the Winter Show, was sponsored by us.

An advanced class was started this season, with 18 keen dancers meeting every alternate Friday evening to learn some of the more complicated dances. These dancers were so keen that they didn't want to stop when our season ended. One member even suggested it would be lovely to dance right throughout the year!

Some members of our Club went up to the weekend school in Dunedin and really enjoyed Miss Phyllis Gale's tuition. We felt that she had marvellous patience with the whole class.

The Ceilidh at Dunedin was another occasion when we journeyed to the north. This was enjoyed by all, and members expressed the wish to go back next year.

The Kew Hospital was again visited this season. Once a month a team of Scottish country dancers and other entertainers visited the hospital to cheer the patients.

Our Club was represented at all the tartan nights held by the Southland clubs.

By courtesy " Southland Times."

Members of the Southland Committee area of Otago Southland Branch in action at a mass demonstration given at the Caledonian Games organised by the Scottish Week Committee, Invercargill, to raise money to help pay off debt on the city's magnificent Scottish Hall.

The break-up party in October had as its theme, " Notable Personalities," and it was amazing to see the number of different personalities who attended. Winston Churchill was there in duplicate as was also Harry Lauder. Charlie Chaplin turned up in triplicate to dance the " Glasgow Highlanders " with such people as Christine Keeler, Irma La Duce and Maureen Kingi. In the Grand March we noticed Bessie and Billy Bunter, the Pearly King and Queen, a Roman Centurion and Bonnie Prince Charlie with Flora McDonald. Wee Willy Winkie was there with Florence Nightingale and Pat Smythe arrived without her horse. It was very amusing to watch some of the more sedate personalities dancing with some of the humorous characters who really adopted their chosen personality very well. Altogether it was a real hilarious evening.

Our Club meets every Monday evening from mid-March till the middle of October in the Otatara Hall, and we extend a very warm invitation to any other Scottish country dancers who find themselves in the district to come over and have a dance with us.

OWAIRAKA REEL AND STRATHSPEY CLUB.—Last year saw little change in our Club. There were almost the usual number of members, and some new ones during the year made up for the inevitable loss.

One evening, our under 21-year-olds took over, and arranged a delightful programme of dances for both young and old alike. Have you ever tried doing the " Congo " to strathspey time? Try it sometime—it is really a lot of fun.

Our Ball went off with a bang, and thanks to other clubs around, we had a reasonably good attendance. Our annual picnic, held on February 20, 1965, was a great success. We all had a good day, playing softball, dancing on the beach and, of course, swimming.

On Sunday, February 21, 1965, our Club, along with others in the Auckland Branch, took part in a demonstration at Windsor Park, Devonport, for the Devonport Festival. The weather wasn't the best, but a good time was had by all concerned.

Our teacher for the year, Miss Joan Frawley, has left us to go overseas, and her post has been taken by Mrs Edna Smith, with some help from Miss Sandra MacNeil.

Happy dancing, everyone, from Owairaka.

PICTON S.C.D. CLUB.—Nineteen sixty-four was a very successful year for our Club. Although our numbers were small, members were able to attend some of the functions held in Blenheim, our nearest neighbours.

Some of our younger members attended the weekend school held in Richmond at Labour weekend and found it very instructive.

A group of witches, accompanied by their black cats, flew up to Blenheim unexpectedly for Hallowe'en. Great fun was had by all.

Three demonstrations were given during the year, these were received with enthusiasm.

We extend our grateful thanks to our very patient teacher, Dorothy Wilson. Under her guidance we feel now we can join in other clubs' functions without feeling—well you all know how you feel when you're just beginning.

We have been forced to change our hall this year, so if you happen to be passing through this sunny spot, you will always be welcome at St. Paul's Sunday School (Presbyterian), Wairau Road, any Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.

Best wishes, and good dancing for 1965 to all clubs everywhere.

ROTORUA S.C.D. CLUB.—Nineteen sixty-four will go down as another successful year of dancing in Rotorua. Under our tutor, Mrs Ellen Aitcheson, we started the season with a number of new members. After we had said goodbye to several old friends our numbers settled down at about the same as the year before.

Socially the year was outstanding. We hired buses five times as a club to attend dances, and travelled as much as 170 miles in an evening on the round trip to Huntly.

A large group of dancers from Rotorua also enjoyed some concentrated tuition at another successful weekend school at Tauranga over Queen's Birthday weekend. It wasn't all hard work and, when we get together with the Waikato and Auckland clubs, things liven up considerably, "Summer School style," as Sunday night revealed.

Our annual dance was better supported by outside dancers. We managed to get a date that didn't clash and it was a most enjoyable evening.

As this is written, at the beginning of 1965, we have already said goodbye to Mrs Norah Davie and her daughter, Kathleen, who are returning to Scotland. Only a visit, we are hoping, Norah. They have both been keen dancers here for the past eight years and Norah has also been one of our most able secretaries.

Our hopes are for an increase of dancers, especially men. Many Wednesday nights last year saw a sole representative of the stronger sex there. Under a new tutor, we are again looking forward to the keenness and support of members which has made past years so enjoyable.

SALTIRE S.C.D. CLUB, CARTERTON.—At the present time members of our Club are practising hard, as they are to give a dancing display at the Kuranui College gala day.

The opening night of the Club was held on March 25, and was enjoyed by all.

We hope to have a good number of members attending this year.

ST. ANDREW'S S.C.D. CLUB.—The past year has been a very busy one for many members of our Club. These busy ones have taken part in many demonstrations, on stage and off. The ones giving most pleasure have been those where the Club members have entertained the old folks of the town with an evening's dancing. The most enjoyable being a visit to an old folk's home, where we were asked to go along and do one or two dances and ended up by staying the whole evening, talking and entertaining the people to their (and our) great pleasure.

The Club is proud to be one of the founding members of the Southland Committee, formed to encourage and bring together Scottish country dancers in Southland. The highlight of the year for the Club, with the help of the other Southland clubs, was taking part in a mass demonstration of country dancing as part of the Caledonian Games organised by the Scottish Week Committee to raise money to help pay off the debt on the magnificent Scottish Hall that we have down here.

The annual combined open night was a great success, and on behalf of all the clubs who helped we would like to ask everyone to support the Southland Committee when they organise the Southland open night.

Our open night was very well supported, and the closing night, which coincided with Hallowe'en, saw the hall decorated in appropriate manner, with all the trimmings—dooking for apples, forfeits, a fancy hat parade and even our own floor show.

In closing, we would like to wish all clubs happy dancing in the coming year.

SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF N.Z. CLUB, CHRISTCHURCH.—Once again our Club has had a successful and happy year of dancing, with Mr George Lambert as our tutor and Mrs Mima Clanachan giving us her capable assistance. Unfortunately Mima will not be with us this coming year, which is our loss, her help being much appreciated.

Occasionally we have had George Lambert's band to play for dances, which lends variety to our dancing and is a change from records.

The interchange of club visits is always looked forward to and enjoyed. Included on our list this year was Cheviot, and their "at home" night made the travelling worthwhile.

Our Club was well represented at Summer School, 19 of our members attending, and all reported it a great success.

We were sorry to lose our secretary, Mr Peter McEwan, who did not seek re-election. His splendid service rendered over the years was much appreciated.

Our Club meets on Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in Scottish Society Hall, and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome.

SOUTH BRIGHTON S.C.D. CLUB.—With a most enjoyable year's dancing behind us, we are looking forward to 1965. Our membership is already up on last year's numbers, and we hope this trend will continue.

Our Club was represented at most Christchurch dances last year, and we hope everyone enjoyed their dancing as much as we did.

We hold our club nights every Monday from 7.30 till 10 in the South Brighton Community Centre, and anyone at a loose end in Christchurch at this time is assured of a very warm welcome. We would also like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a happy and successful year's dancing for 1965. Good luck for the year ahead.

SOUTHERN CROSS S.C.D. CLUB, DUNEDIN.—Season 1964 was for us an outstanding one in many ways. Supremely important was the large increase in membership and the good attendances at club nights—a trend we are happy to report continues this year. Thankfully, TV has had no effect on our numbers, and in mid-1964 a happy little children's class was started.

On Queen's Birthday weekend many of our members made the annual visit to Christchurch Club, and celebrated with them their tenth birthday at a well-organised function which was much enjoyed.

In August our tutor, Peggy Hudson, attended the teachers' refresher course at Wellington, where she successfully took her second examination for Teacher's Certificate. We congratulate her on this, and also say " well done " to another of our members, Mary Ronnie, who passed the Preliminary test at Wanganui Summer School. Many of our members attended the school, returning with glowing reports.

Christchurch Club members paid their annual return visit to us in November and joined us in a very successful open night. In this month also we were to see the marriage of Jim Ronnie to Mavis Young, and our best wishes go to these staunch members of our Club, and to newly-weds Mr and Mrs Ron Macmillan.

Two weel-kent faces on club nights were those of Peggy Hudson's parents, Mr and Mrs McArthur, who came out to New Zealand on an extended holiday and have now returned to Scotland. We had the opportunity of " officially " farewelling them and wishing them well at a surprise party.

Our best wishes to Scottish country dancers everywhere.

STOKE S.C.D. CLUB.—Our Club had a happy season of dancing, but at the end of the year were saddened to lose our President, Mr Don Nicholson, who has been our mainstay for several years.

Under Don's guidance our annual birthday dance and other socials were successful, as was our Isel Park picnic, with support from neighbouring clubs.

As our membership has declined, we are making an all-out effort to gain more members this year.

STRATFORD AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY S.C.D. CLUB.—Our 1964 season concluded in September after a very successful year, both socially and financially. Monthly socials were held, and these were very well attended, especially by the children and their parents. Games mixed with the dancing proved very popular.

As there are four S.C.D. clubs in Taranaki, a committee was formed comprising two members from each club, and throughout the year we each held a four-club social which we enjoyed immensely.

The highlight of the year was our Annual Ball, with visitors from all Taranaki clubs, Rotorua and Palmerston North. We engaged the Balmoral dance band, so for the first time in Taranaki there was " live music " at a country dance Ball. This band is very well known to our Club members. We enjoy listening and dancing to their music, and we are sure all the dancers at the Ball did also.

Our members have visited New Plymouth, Inglewood and Heather Clubs and four dancers attended the combined closing night at Wanganui. The juvenile members have danced at Christmas parties and our old hands have given displays at concerts and sports days.

In October the Dominion President, Miss Phyllis Gale, of Christchurch, paid a short visit to Stratford,

Watching for the dicky bird was something to smile over at the Stratford and District Ball.

and as our Club had ceased dancing for the year, the Heather Club acted as host for the occasion. All were invited along to meet Miss Gale and have a good night's dancing. May we take this opportunity of publicly thanking the Heather Club for their hospitality.

We extend best wishes to all clubs, and if anyone is ever in our neighbourhood, look us up, at the Stratford Bowling Club Hall, any Tuesday night until October. Here's tae us, wha's like us.

STRATHALLAN S.C.D. CLUB, TIMARU.—We have enjoyed another happy year of dancing in our snug little hall in Bank Street, Timaru, where Tom Crabbe, our President, presides each Friday night, even if we can't say that his word is law.

Lina Goodall has made a wonderful senior tutor, and we are all very grateful for her gentle Scottish patience and her enthusiasm. Ian Johnston continues to cope with the juniors with the help of some of the older girls, and many young Timaruvians will be able to look back upon his teaching with pleasure in later years.

Alice Connor has relinquished the secretary's post to Audrey Hutcheon this year, but finances are still in the capable canny hands of Betty Erskine, and with a name like that, we can't help but be on the right side of the ledger.

In fact there are times when you could close your eyes at the Orange Hall on a Friday night and imagine that you were on Princes or Sauchiehall Street, I'm not sure which.

We made many a happy excursion abroad during the winter, and we had lots of visitors too, and also helped

to provide a little bright entertainment at various functions in and out of the city for elderly folk and hospital patients.

We lost one of our gay lasses to matrimony early in the year—she's a clever girl too—but they all fall for the old line. However, we gave Sheena Clark a truly Scottish send-off, and some of us sceptical N.Zedders were mightily astonished to see such a big girl leaping about over a certain obsolescent article of bedroom furniture all filled up with SALT! Now, whatever do you suppose that was in aid of? And there was Sheena looking like the Witch of Endor with carrots and onions dripping about her, and thoroughly enjoying it all. Ah weel! there's no accounting for some of us, is there? They tell me they finished up by "walking the lass home," but, anyway, we all had fun and a gay night's dancing too.

So even if you're the "saftest o' the family," you'll find a very warm welcome with Strathallan in Timaru any and every Friday night from March to November in the Orange Hall, Bank Street.

TARADALE S.C.D. CLUB.—Now at the beginning of our eighth year, we look back on seven years of very happy dancing and with confidence that the future will hold the same in store for us. Many different feet have danced across the floor in that time, the owners of some are now scattered around New Zealand and overseas. Taradale has been most fortunate in having certificated tutors, who expect a certain standard of dancing, and we'd like to think they were successful with most of us.

With the advent of TV in this area two years ago, it was found that attendances at Club fell away considerably. Accepting this as a challenge, various methods of advertising were devised, and as a result we have gained many new young members who so enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the Club as well as being put through steps and formations.

About the middle of last year an innovation was made in the forming of a Junior Club. This meets on Tuesdays from 6.30 to 8.30, and two Club members are in charge of them till 8 o'clock, when Mrs Win Hill takes over the Senior Club and casts an expert eye on the children's footwork. This new venture has proved most popular, but whether the keenness springs from dancing or the fact that six boys are members is open to conjecture! However, as "Cumberland Reel" has dropped from first place, and requests for more difficult dances are received, it would appear the children have a love of dancing after all.

We enjoy meeting friends from other clubs, and assure you of a very warm welcome at the Labour Hall on Tuesdays at 8 o'clock.

TAURANGA S.C.D. CLUB.—What our Club lacks in numbers, we certainly make up for with enthusiasm, and last year we had a most successful and enjoyable time. A large number of dancers and friends had a happy Final Night on November 3, when we celebrated our fourth birthday. On our opening night this year we had several newcomers to the Club, which is a good start to the coming season.

Many of our members travelled to various club Balls in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty and enjoyed pleasant dancing, as well as meeting many old friends and making new ones. In return, we were pleased to welcome several visiting dancers to our weekly club nights.

We have given several demonstrations throughout the year, highlights being the Highland Games, when neighbouring clubs were invited to take part in a massed demonstration, and a very enjoyable trip to Hamilton to take part in the Kenneth McKellar Show.

At the beginning of the season we said "haste ye back" to Anne Fraser, who made a visit to her family in England. A few months after her return to us, Club members were happy to attend the wedding dance of Anne and Cliff Whyte. Best wishes for a happy future also went to Cliff's twin brother, Murray, on his marriage to Judy Trotter, and to Sue Ecob who wed Neil Harris.

We farewelled two members during the year, Glenys Grant and Noelene Nuttall, who are both now living in Auckland. Good luck in your new jobs, girls. Half a dozen of our members attended Summer School in Wanganui, and from all accounts had a pleasant and energetic fortnight.

Our thanks go to our tutors, Anne and Allen Russell, for the encouragement given to beginners and tactful assistance to seniors, thus ensuring happy and relaxed club nights for all.

Last Queen's Birthday weekend we held another very successful weekend school, and we must give special thanks to our tutors, Mildred, Mirth and Gary. We held our Annual Ball in conjunction with the school and as this was such a success it has been decided to do the same again this year. We hope we are able to welcome as many dancers to this school as we did to our last one, and can assure them of a happy and interesting weekend.

Finally, the Tauranga Club wishes all country dancers a happy '65 season, and, if any of you should be our way on a Tuesday night, we meet at the Bowling Club Pavilion in Cliff Road, at 8 and would love to see you.

TAWA CALEDONIAN S.C.D. CLUB.—As we look back on our last season, we think first of our happy hours spent together while learning the many new dances and practising the old favourites under the able tutoring of Mr Ian Simmonds. Next our thoughts go to the numerous friends from other clubs who came along to our club nights and helped to make them such jolly nights for us, and, we sincerely hope, for them too. As we are a small club this has helped us a great deal. Thanks, friends, and we look forward to your dropping in again next season.

During the past year several members attended a one-day school of dancing in Wellington and the Summer School. Those who went, voted both these functions most enjoyable and are looking forward to going again.

Three of our members were privileged to take part with the teams supplied by the Branch for the Kenneth McKellar Show.

Two sets of dancers, along with marching girls and a pipe band, went along one Sunday afternoon to the Porirua Mental Hospital and entertained a large number of patients. This was greatly appreciated by all at the hospital and we have been asked if we will give more of these afternoons.

We have attended other dance clubs in the district and even went as far afield as Levin, and met many old friends and thoroughly enjoyed their hospitality. What enjoyment and pleasure one can get from S.C.D. and what pleasure we can give to others. Many of our friends from other clubs, both near and far, rallied to join us at our formal night and helped make it a most successful and happy venture.

At the close of dancing season we said good-bye to our instructor, Mr Ian Simmonds, who is unable to instruct any more, but tells us he will still join us when time permits. A big thanks from us all, Ian, for all the time you have given our Club.

We are now into our 1965 season and hope that, if you happen to be in our area, you will drop in one Thursday at the Scout Den, Oxford Street, at 8 p.m., and give us the opportunity of saying "hello" and enjoying your company for a wee while. We extend to every club our best wishes for a happy year of dancing.

TEMUKA AND DISTRICT S.C.D. CLUB.—During July, 1964, a meeting was convened to consider the formation of a club in Temuka. The meeting was duly held with an attendance of some 21 folk who formed the nucleus of a now well-established S.C.D. club whose membership has grown rapidly to within the vicinity of 60 members. Our tutor is Mrs Doris Smith, and under her able guidance the members have made good progress in spite of our short season.

Several invitations were received to dance at local functions, and although most of us were raw recruits, with some hard work put in by our tutor we were able to meet the required standard and give pleasure to an appreciative audience, and, of course, much enjoyed ourselves.

Our enthusiastic committee have already shown the fruits of their labours, in that they have acquired a record player and sound system which at present is being assembled and will be ready for use early in the new season.

We are extremely grateful to neighbouring clubs who have helped us considerably to become established, and joined us on club nights.

To conclude our season an evening was held at which Miss Phyllis Gale honoured us with her presence, also our Mayor and Mayoress and members from Christchurch, Oamaru and neighbouring clubs.

One of the highlights of the season was a Christmas invitation to a night of dancing under floodlights on the lawn of the home of our tutor, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It is hoped to make this an annual occasion.

Our season is from March to November inclusive, and we meet every Monday in the Supper Room, Citizens' Hall, Temuka, at 8 p.m. A warm welcome awaits all visitors to our area.

We wish all clubs a happy year of dancing, and look forward to meeting more members of other clubs at our first open night later in the season.

TIMARU S.C.D. CLUB.—The Club had another very full and enjoyable year. We opened on February 26, danced our way through the year till the end of November and visited open nights of clubs from Christchurch to Dunedin.

Jimmy Shand once again visited our fair city and six members of our Club were in the sets which danced on the stage of the Theatre Royal to music of Jimmy and his band. This was a wonderful experience for all.

Club members attended two weekend schools during the year—one in Christchurch, which was tutored by Mr J. Seton and another in Dunedin tutored by Miss Phyllis Gale.

Our own one-day school, held in August, proved very successful and our thanks go to Phyllis for giving us of her valuable time.

The Scottish Society once again called on the Club to help them out at their concerts, and we brought much happiness to the patients of the Timaru Hospital, Talbot Hospital, Home of Compassion, Margaret Wilson Home and Beverley War Veterans' Home.

Our open night was very successful, with nearly 200 dancers from Christchurch and Dunedin attending. The guests included our Patron, Mrs M. Hilton; the Mayor and Mayoress of Timaru, Mr and Mrs C. Thomson; the member of Parliament for Timaru, Sir Basil Arthur and Lady Arthur; and our Dominion President, Miss Phyllis Gale.

The children's class is still doing very well under the tutorship of Mrs G. Alexander.

One of our Club members, Mr N. Guthrie, made a trip to Japan to attend the Olympic Games (lucky man).

We are very pleased to announce that our treasurer, Mr A. Mortimer, has been honoured by the Scout movement for his services to Scouting. He was awarded the Medal of Merit. Congratulations to you Alec—we are proud of you.

We tender our best wishes to all dancers. If you are in Timaru on a Wednesday night don't forget to join us in the Main School Hall, Grey Road. A big welcome awaits all who come.

TOTARA VALLEY S.C.D. CLUB.

TV IN T. V.

We see new aerials springing up
And view them with alarm,
And wonder if our dancing club
Will suffer any harm.
For membership is dwindling
With many members left,
And now we see a menace fresh
To leave us more bereft.
So, arm to the feet and onward dance
All ye braw Scots;
Treat with disdain the waving masts;
Go, tie your gillie knots.
For 'tis a sorry state indeed
If future S.C.D.
Is jeopardised for aye perhaps
In T. V. by TV.

WAIMATE S.C.D. CLUB.—Once again we report a happy and successful year's dancing with a big increase in membership and very good finances!

A new venture, before our season opened this year, was to hold a class for men on each Wednesday in February. This has given the lads confidence as well as some idea of what it is all about, and we look forward to a grand time in 1965.

Our Club was represented at nearly all open nights in and beyond our district. We gave demonstrations at Waihaorunga, Lister House, Senior Citizens, Presbyterian Fair and at several Inglesides held by our Scottish Society. We were very proud of our four members who danced with Timaru folks one night of the Jimmy Shand Show.

Sorry we were indeed to bid farewell to Jess during last year, and we do hope Nelson is treating her well.

To our tutor, secretary, president and committee we give our grateful thanks for keeping everything running so smoothly.

Our open night was a great success, thanks to all those who travelled from far and near. It certainly went with a swing—especially the kilt.

May we see you all back again in October, also on any Wednesday night, at the Pipe Band Hall.

WANGANUI CALEDONIAN S.C.D. CLUB.—Our Club has enjoyed many happy and energetic Friday evenings' dancing and extend a warm welcome to anyone who would care to join us. Beginners turned up in promising numbers at the start of the '64 season, but, unfortunately, all did not continue to come along. Members travelled to numerous other Scottish country dancing functions in the district and experienced the same warm hospitality everywhere.

The recent death of our Chief, Mr William Laird, has been a big blow to us all. He was such a cheerful and tireless worker for Scottish country dancing, particularly in latter years with the Junior Group which has been built up mainly from his great enthusiasm to teach the children the dances he loved.

A combined set from Wanganui clubs had the honour of dancing with Jimmy Shand and his band in the Kenneth McKellar Show that visited here last July. Despite the chilly atmosphere of our notoriously cold Opera House stage, dancers easily forgot numb toes and fingers in the pleasure of dancing to such famous musicians.

An outdoor demonstration on the War Memorial Hall Forecourt, as a prelude to the musical "Brigadoon," put on by the local amateur society, included as many of our members as wished to join in, along with those from other clubs.

Our mid-year formal was to have followed a tutors' day school, which was postponed, and was not well attended. Sickness and very bad weather combined to keep dancers away but those that came, we hope, enjoyed themselves. The hall was decorated in a "Barn Theme," with bales of hay, lanterns, cobwebs and a large roaring fire.

A decision to hold a combined "wind-up" formal with the Glendarroch Club proved a most successful venture, and the Red Cross Hall almost overflowed with dancers.

As a finale to the year's activities, all members that could participated in a demonstration at the Christmas Fiesta which was held on the War Memorial Hall Forecourt in a temporary soundshell built for the occasion. The night was warm and proved a very popular part of the Christmas festivities.

With Summer School being held in Wanganui this year, we feel that we have had a good measure of Scottish country dancing and those who attended are eagerly waiting to put into practice all they have learnt, so off we go again on yet another year of what we are sure will be very happy dancing.

WATERVIEW S.C.D. CLUB.—We wish to report that 1964 was a very successful year in that our numbers remained at a steady level, and it proved also to be an enjoyable one for all.

Our mid-year dance was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by the large numbers who atended.

A demonstration team, trained by Mrs Fleming (to whom the Club owes a great deal incidentally), performed at various functions throughout the year, and the season came to a close with a jolly good evening on December 5.

Two of our members have taken off on world tours—Miss Barbara Rogers and Miss Dina Hendriks, our secretary for 1964. We wish them happy travelling and a wonderful holiday.

WELLINGTON S.C.D. CLUB.—"Feet feel itchy? Don't scratch 'em—dance 'em! They won't want to stop once they start Scottish Country Dancing!" This was the start of our advertisement in the newspaper announcing the 1964 season. We were pleasantly surprised to discover how many people in Wellington apparently had itchy feet! well, they won't be itchy now, as they danced 'em all through another enjoyable year and are back again for more in 1965.

During the year we had our usual dances, including our eleventh Birthday Dance, and added a special evening at Hallowe'en for the witches and warlocks in the Club (quite a few of whom arrived in appropriate attire). The attendance was good and members alternately wet their faces as they dooked for apples and acquired sticky cheeks as they tackled treacle scones. The dances were in keeping—e.g. "The De'il Amang the Tailors" and a dance contrived especially for the occasion by Joe Constable —"Hallowe'en Hop" or "The Witches' Brew." It was all great fun.

Throughout the season we again gave several demonstrations in a variety of places—reckon we must have covered most of the Wellington kindergartens by now! One which was at the other end of the scale was the Scots Ball held in the Town Hall.

At the end of the year we had to say a sad farewell to several Club members who were moving away from Wellington, but the "dark horse" was our attractive treasurer, Margaret MacKenzie, who was "Woo'd an' married an' a'" between the close of last season and the beginning of this, and has been carried off to Auckland;

These ex-members and any other dancers who find themselves in Wellington can be assured of a friendly welcome on Wednesday nights at the Thistle Hall (at the corner of Cuba and Arthur Streets), where once again S.C.D. activities are in full swing.

WHAKATANE CALEDONIAN S.C.D. CLUB.—March, 1964, saw the beginning of the season for our Club, with enough members to form two sets and several learners. What these latter lacked in finesse they made up for in enthusiasm, and as the year progressed so also did the standard of their dancing.

Saturday, May 9, was the night of the Club's Ball, and, despite the inclemency of the weather, visitors came from near and far to enjoy a night of S.C.D. During the year several of our members reciprocated by visiting other clubs on the night's of their Balls and had an enjoyable time at each one.

Several of our members attended the weekend school held at Tauranga on Queen's Birthday weekend, and came back to Whakatane much benefited by the tuition given there. Many plan to go again when the school is held in June.

Later in the year we had a visit from Mrs Thomson, President of the Waikato Branch, of which our Club is now a member. Her help and advice was much appreciated by our members and her visit was enjoyed by all.

We are fortunate in having Mr Bob Charles, composer of the "Balmoral Strathspey," as a member of our Club. Both he and his wife, and two other members, come all the way from Kawerau, a distance of 21 miles each way.

The closing night of the season was held in November with a social evening. Invitations were sent out to other clubs but wild, stormy weather was against members travelling, so the season ended with only a few dancers, a very happy and gay evening was enjoyed by all.

Although the resignation from a few members had to be accepted, and that regretfully, the rest of us are looking forward to another happy year of S.C.D.

WRIGHTS BUSH S.C.D. CLUB.—We have started our sixth year of dancing and our invitation tartan night will be held in our own Hall on August 21.

We have worked hard to procure our own music and now have it at hand. The Club is very grateful to Mrs G. Paterson for supplying the music up till now.

We are fortunate in still having her as our instructor, and we now have Mrs G. Perriam taking our learners' class.

Last year we held 18 dance nights, including three tartan nights which were very successful.

Our members visited most clubs in the area on their tartan nights and enjoyed them all.

We wish all clubs good dancing again this year.

CLUB DIRECTORY

CLUBS AS AT APRIL 4, 1965

NAME	SECRETARY	PLACE AND TIME OF MEETING
Ashburton	Mrs C. Johnstone, 30 Andrew St., Ashburton.	R.S.A. Hall, West St., Wed., 7.30.
Auckland.—		
Braemar	Mrs I. White, 111 Forest Hill Rd., Takapuna.	Lyons Mem. Hall, Anzac St., Takapuna, Tues, 7.30.
Innes	Mrs M. M. Bryson, 29 Elstree Av., Glen Innes.	Glen Innes Int. Sch. Hall, Farringdon St., Mon., 7.45.
Knox	Miss H. Duncan, 17 Grange Rd., Mt Eden.	R.S.A. Hall, Parnell Rd., Mon., 7.30.
Milford	Miss K. Barbour, 141 Beach Rd., Campbell's Bay.	20 Milford Rd., Milford, Thurs., 7.45.
Otahuhu	Mrs R. Brodie, 36 Buckland Rd. East, Otahuhu.	Otahuhu Primary School, Station Rd., Tues., 7.30.
Owairaka	Miss A. McNeil, 17 Tongariro St., Mt Eden.	Owairaka Sch. Hall, Mon., 7.45.
St. Heliers	? Mrs M. B. Arthur, 292 Kohimarama Rd.	Pres. Church Hall St. Heliers, Tues., 7.45.
Waterview	Mrs C. M. Myers, 29 Alford St., Avondale.	
Balclutha	? Mrs Dunn, 15 Ayr St., Balclutha.	Pipe Band Hall, Wed., 8.
†Banks Peninsula	Mrs J. M. Vogan, Duvauchelle R.D., Banks Peninsula.	Duvauchelle Hall, Tues., 7.30.
Blenheim.—Marlborough	Mr J. MacPherson, 135 Alabama Rd., Blenheim.	Meth. Sun. Sch. Hall, Hutcheson St., Thurs., 7.45.
*Brisbane	Miss B. Walters, 17 Muriel Av., Manley, Brisbane.	
Cambridge	Mrs J. M. M. Thomson, Campbell St., Leamington.	Arawa Hall, Anzac St., Wed., 8.
Carterton.—Saltire	Miss C. Reading, 14 High St., Carterton.	Pres. Hall, High St., Thurs., 7.30.
*Cheviot	Mrs D. S. Foster, R.D. 3, Cheviot.	Domett Hall, Cheviot, Thurs., 8.
Christchurch.—		
Cant. Cale. Soc.	Mr A. Love, 13 Anvers Pl., Christchurch, 2.	Caledonian Hall, Kilmore St., Mon., 7.30.
Christchurch	Mr I. P. Hillier, Box 2275, Christchurch.	Horticultural Hall, cnr. Gloucester St. and Cambridge Ter., Wed., 7.30.
Scottish Soc.	Mrs E. Fox, 44 McGregors Rd., Christchurch, 6.	Scottish Society Hall, Tues., 7.30.
South Brighton	Miss W. Thomson, 248 Pine Av., Christchurch, 7.	South Brighton Comm. Centre, Mon., 7.30.
Spreydon	Mr W. G. Rowlands, 214 Lyttelton St., Christchurch, 2.	? Centennial Hall, cnr Sparks Rd., & Lyttelton St., Tues., 7.30.
Dunedin.—		
Andersons Bay	Mrs G. Brinsdon, 6 Tainui St., Dunedin.	St. Michael's Hall, Elliott St., Dunedin, alt. Wed., 8.
Burns	Mr. H. Barkman, 21 Patrick St., Dunedin.	Y.W.C.A. Hall, Moray Pl., Mon., 7.
Corstorphine	Mrs J. W. Clark, 109 Middleton Rd., Kew, Dunedin.	Corstorphine School Hall, Tues., 7.30.
†North-East Valley	Mr K. Wright, 8 Marquis St., Dunedin.	Upper Hall, N.E.V. Pres. Church, James St., Mon., 7.45.
Southern Cross	Mrs P. Hudson, 305 Pine Hill Rd., Dunedin.	Wardells Studio, Tues., 7.30.
Featherston	Mrs J. W. McKain, Birdwood St., Featherston.	Oddfellows' Hall, Lyons St., Wed., 7.30.
Geraldine	Miss B. Hill, Hewling St., Geraldine.	Oddfellows' Hall, Thurs., 8.
*Gisborne Cal. Soc.	Miss I. Samson, 353 Ormond Rd., Gisborne.	Old Folk's Hall, Bright St., Tues., 8.
†Hamilton Cal. Soc.	Mr N. R. Middleton, Box 493, Hamilton.	Tues., 8.
Hastings.—		
Hastings	Mrs I. McFadyen, 406 Charles St., Hastings.	Oddfellows' Hall, Ellison Rd., Wed., 7.30.
St. Andrews	? Miss E. McNaught, 800 Victoria St., Hastings.	Windsor Lodge, Tues., 7.30.
Huntly.—		
Huntly	? Mrs E. Martin, 22 Bailey St., Huntly.	War Mem. Supper Room, Thurs., 7.
Huntly Cal. Soc.	Mrs C. McGuire, 260 Gt. South Rd., Huntly.	Workingmen's Hall, Mon., 7.
Inglewood.—Knox Soc. Club	Mr S. Bennett, R.D. 6, Inglewood.	Knox Hall, Fri., 8.
Invercargill.—		
Otatara	Mrs K. Ross, 123 Avon Rd., Clifton, Invercargill.	Otatara Hall, Mon., 7.30.
St. Andrews	Mrs D. M. Kennedy, 479 Tweed St., Invercargill.	Scottish Hall, Esk St., alt. Thurs., 8.
Levin	Mrs J. Keenan, Arapaepae Rd., Levin.	Kotuku Hall, Mon., 7.30.
Lower Hutt	Miss C. Smith, 11 Mitchell St., Lower Hutt.	Epuni Comm. Hall, Mitchell St., Mon., 8.
Marton	Mr R. Scarth, Box 12, Flock House, Bulls.	Lutheran Church Hall, Mon., 7.45.
Masterton	Mrs M. Donovan, 9 Raglan St., Masterton.	? Landsdowne Sch. Hall, Tues., 8.
Methven.—Breacan	Mrs J. MacMillan, R.D. 6, Ashburton.	St. John's Sun. Sch. Hall, Methven, Mon., 7.30.

CLUB DIRECTORY (Continued)

NAME	SECRETARY	PLACE AND TIME OF MEETING
Morrison's Bush	? Mrs J. Coe, Four Oaks, Wards Line, Greytown.	Morrison's Bush Hall, Mon., 7.30.
Mosgiel	Mrs I. Murdoch, 31 Bush Rd., Mosgiel.	Pres. Sun. Sch. Hall, Mon., 7.30.
Motueka.—Braeburn	Miss S. Sowman, Queen Victoria St., Motueka.	Parklands Hall, Mon., 8.
Moutere Hills	Mrs D. Blundell, Tasman, Nelson.	Rifle Club Hall, Tasman, Tues., 7.
Napier	Miss C. Jackson, Riverbend Rd., Napier.	Orange Hall, Carlyle St., Fri., 8.
Nelson.—		
Nelson	Miss E. Wilson, 140 Toi-Toi St., Nelson.	? Rechabite Hall, Bridge St., Thurs. exc. 4th & 4th Sat.
Stoke	Mrs M. Price, 45 Ridgeway, Whakatu, Nelson.	? Memorial Hall, Tues., 7.30.
New Plymouth	? Mrs R. G. Sinclair, 5 Veale Rd., New Plymouth.	Y.W.C.A. Hall, Powderham St., Tues., 7.30.
Oamaru.—Balmoral	Mr C. M. Sime, 14 Solway St., Oamaru (Act.).	National Party Hall, Tues., 7.30.
Otematata—Kirriemuir	Mr H. J. Mein, 32 Skippers Av., Otematata, N. Otago.	R.S.A. Hall, Otematata, Mon., 7.45.
Palmerston	Miss I. McKean, Tiverton St., Palmerston.	Palmerston Town Hall, Wed., 7.30.
Palmerston North.—Bluebell	Mr D. McFarlane, 19 Wincanton Pl., Palmerston N.	Hokowhitu Sch. Hall, Albert St., Tues. 8.
Picton	Miss S. Cantwell, 111 Wellington St., Picton.	St. Paul's Pres. Sun. Sch., Wed., 7.30.
Richmond	Mr G. J. Barker, 12 Sutton St., Richmond.	Sports Hall, Mon., 7.30.
Rotorua	Mrs N. M. Sherson, 16 Roosevelt Rd., Western Heights, Rotorua.	St. John's Church Hall, Pukuatua St., Wed., 7.45.
Seacliff	? Mrs J. Ford, Palmer St., Seacliff.	Seacliff Public Hall, Tues., 7.
Stratford.—		
Heather	Miss P. Gowen, 7 Hamlet St., Stratford.	Avon School Hall, Tues., 8.
Stratford and Dist.	Mrs E. Brown, 8 Achilles St., Stratford.	Stratford Bowling Club Hall, Tues., 7.
Taradale		
*Greendale C.D.	Mrs R. Foster, 85 Meeanee Rd., Taradale.	
Taradale	Mrs M. Frame, Box 33, Taradale.	Labour Hall, Taradale, Tues., 8.
Tawa	Mr P. Nielsen, c/o Farrand, 32 The Drive, Tawa.	Scout Den, Oxford St., Thurs., 8.
Tauranga	Mrs J. Zuppicich, 66 Henderson Cres., Tauranga.	Bowling Club Pavilion, Cliff Rd., Tues., 8.
†Temuka and Dist.	Miss H. J. H. Strachan, Box 68, Temuka.	Supper Room, Citizens' Hall, Mon., 8.
Timaru.—		
Glencoe	Mrs A. Haggitt, 74 Beverley Rd., Timaru.	Tech. Coll. Hall, Mon., 7.45.
Strathallan	Mrs A. Hutcheson, 68 Mowbray St., Timaru.	Orange Hall, Bank St., Fri., 8.
Timaru	Miss B. Harwood, 36 Hassall St., Timaru.	Main Sch. Hall, Grey Rd., Wed., 7.30.
Totara Valley	Mrs J. D. Linton, Cattle Valley, Fairlie.	Totara Valley Comb. Dist. Hall, Sat., 7.45.
Waimate	Miss A. Scadden, 34 Harris St., Waimate.	Pipe Band Hall, Wed., 8.
Wainuioru	Mr J. Armstrong, R.D. 3, Masterton.	Wainuioru Hall, Sat., 7.30.
Wanganui.—		
Glendarroch	? Miss A. Brown, 75 Wicksteed St., Wanganui.	Health Centre Hall, Victoria Av., Sat., 8.
Wanganui Cal. Soc.	Mrs J. M. Ellery, 125 Ikitara Rd., Wanganui.	St. Andrew's Hall, Bell St., Fri., 8.
Wanganui Girls' Coll.	Mrs E. Vernon, 20 Tanguru St., Wanganui.	? College Hall, Wed., 12.50, Thurs., 3.35.
Wellington.—		
Kelburn		St. Michael's Hall, Kelburn, Wed., 8.
Wellington	Miss D. MacDonald, Te Hopai Home, Hospital Rd., Wellington, S.1.	Thistle Hall, cnr Arthur & Cuba Sts., Wed., 8.
Whakatane	Mr L. Mowry, 18 Garaway St., Whakatane.	Caledonian Hall, King St., Tues., 7.45.
Whangarei	Mrs M. F. Bourke, 99 Whau Valley Rd., Whangarei	Old Folk's Club Rooms, Thurs., 7.45.
Winchester	? Mrs P. D. Gifford, Winchester.	Winchester Sch. Tues., 7.30.
Wrights Bush	Mrs W. R. Batt, Wrights Bush.	Wrights Bush Hall, alt. Wed., 8.

* Affiliated Group † Provisional ? As at April, 1964.

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